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Volunteers stuff 100 bags with holiday gifts for homebound seniors served by the St. Vincent meals on Wheels program.



Metro Staff Stuffs 100 Gift Bags of Holiday Cheer for Homebound Seniors

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Dec. 14, 2005) A number of Metro staff were sequestered in the Union Station Conference Room on Monday, busily stuffing 100 gift bags for seniors and homebound people served by the St. Vincent "Meals on Wheels" program.

"The holiday season is the loneliest time of the year for the city's poorest seniors, many of whom are homebound without the means or capability to get around," says Tess Fitzpatrick, an administrative analyst in ITS.

Fitzpatrick knows first-hand the joys a hot meal and warm greetings can bring to the forgotten elders. She's a volunteer runner for the St. Vincent "Meals on Wheels" program.

She and other Metro volunteers have been collecting useful



items for the goodie bags that will be delivered to seniors along with their holiday meal on Christmas Day.

Volunteers Fe Alcid-Little and Tess Fitzpatrick have a lot in common. They're sisters and both are runners for the St. Vincent Meals on Wheels program.

"We've put together 100 gift bags for the seniors and homebound. The items were donated in blocks of 100 from groups of Metro employees who pooled their resources to provide 100 toothbrushes, 100 angel ornaments, 100 little soaps, 100 combs and several other useful items," she said.

Ultimately, Meals on Wheels will deliver 2,500 bags this season, 100 of which will come from Metro employees.



Assembly line of volunteers stuff 100 holiday gift bags during their collective lunch hour.
Foreground: Lynn Ong, ITS

Volunteers will deliver the gift bags to Sister Alice Marie Quinn at the St. Vincent's Senior Citizen Nutrition Center on Dec. 19, where they will be treated to lunch and a tour of the famous kitchen, which has been staffed on many occasions by such celebrated chefs as Wolfgang Puck.

St. Vincent Meals on Wheels is privately funded, serving an average of 2,500 meals a day, including some 1,500 meals delivered directly to each home.

Metro volunteers include * Edina Pagadora * Nancy Untalan * Lou Pecho * Juliet Glindro * Cory Uy * Carmelita Malonzo * Melissa Olivo * Marta Mack * Barbara Burns * Helen Ortiz * Denise Charles * Nela De Castro * Barbara Olson-Bonk * Mary Nugent * Jessica Gil * Jeannette Bell * Carol Holben * Yvette Nixon * Richard Christie * Liz Campos * Tess Fitzpatrick * Lynn Ong * Joe Giba * Ralph Carapia * Debbie Bishop * Renita Anderson * Frank Shapiro * Nadine Beffa * Michael Eshete * Anne Adelman * Fred Polscheit * Jacquenette Terry * Alicia Walker * Helen Cosner * Fe Alcid-Little * Tess Banaag * Tommye Williams * Susan Cariasa. *

