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Gifts for Someone Special: Volunteers pack 110 gift bags for homebound seniors and others served by the St. Vincent "Meals on Wheels" program. Tess Fitzpatrick, foreground, and Fe Alcid-Little have something in common. They're sisters who volunteer as "runners" for the St. Vincent "Meals on Wheels" program.



Volunteers Stuff 110 Gift Bags of Holiday Cheer for Homebound Seniors

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Dec. 14, 2006) A number of Metro staff were sequestered at lunchtime on Dec. 7, cheerfully 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 and her sister, Fe Alcid-Little, are volunteer runners for the St. Vincent "Meals on Wheels" program.

She and other Metro volunteers have been collecting useful items for the goodie bags



Volunteers, from left, Liz Campos, Nancy Untalan, Lynn Ong, and Tess Fitzpatrick help pack 110 holiday gift bags.

that will be delivered to seniors along with their holiday meal on Christmas Day.

"We've put together 110 gift bags for the seniors and those who are otherwise confined to their living quarters. The items included new socks, toothbrushes, tree ornaments, soap, combs, q-tips, candies, shampoo, lotion, Christmas mugs and several other useful items," she said.

Fitzpatrick delivered the gift bags to Sister Alice Marie Quinn at the St. Vincent's Senior Citizen Nutrition Center on Dec. 13. Ultimately, Meals on Wheels will deliver 2,500 bags this season.

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.



Nancy Untalan and Debbie Bishop at the finish line. Roster of volunteers includes Anne Adelman, Renita Anderson, Mila Asuncion, Barbara Olsen-Bonk, Jessica Gil, Maria Mariano, Mary Nugent, Carol Holben, Barbara Burns, Liz Campos, Lynn Ong, Lou Pecho, Cory Uy, Nancy Untalan, Susan Carlasa-Ginsberg, Avis Brame, Nela De Castro, Juliet Glindro, Edina Pagadora,

Tommye Williams , Debbie Bishop, Glendora Walker, Fe Alcid-Little, Tess Fitzpatrick, Helen Cosner, Beverly Davenport-Waldon, Alicia Walker, Jeannette Bell, and Carmelita Malonzo.

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