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Eagle Scout Project has started a chain reaction

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VIDEO When Jeff Myers takes on a project, he dives in deep, and, in the case of his Eagle Scout project, his actions started a chain reaction.

Myers, 18, and a Dublin Coffman High School senior, built boxes as temporary homes for clothing, boots, blankets and other items students bring to their schools to donate to the Dublin-based Welcome Warehouse, an organization that provides clothing and household items to those in need locally.

The project began last year, with planning and an assembly line of 35 people, he said.

In April, Myers' friends and fellow Scouts from Troop 117, based at St. Brigid of Kildare Catholic Church, compiled the precuts for the boxes, constructed them, painted them white as a base, then drilled holes and added rope for easy access in and out.

"They are designed to be movable, so we added casters," Myers said.

The last step was painting themes on the boxes by the school's art club, many of them reflecting the Friends of Rachel chain reaction of kindness, Thom Jones, Willard Grizzell Middle School Principal said.

A team of Grizzell seventh-and-eighth graders began the Friends of Rachel project a little less than a year ago. It evolved from the death of Rachel Scott at Columbine High School more than 10 years ago.

Grizzell students then joined forces with Welcome Warehouse to create Dublin's Friends of Rachel to promote the chain reaction of kindness in the community.

"They have taken what Jeff did, and started a chain reaction," Jones said.

Print Page



SNP photo by Kathleen Radcliff
Dublin Coffman High School senior Jeff Myers' Eagle Scout project was the catalyst for a chain reaction of students' giving and helping others. Video at columbuslocalnews.com.

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Grizzell also holds a special place for Myers.

"I was one of the last people to go from Grizzell to Coffman," he said.

"All of the boxes have been deployed," said Lisa George, Welcome Warehouse board president.

"A ton of donations are coming in via the boxes," George said.

"This helps us get the word out, and they make people aware of the opportunities," to donate," she said.

In addition, "They are great collection boxes," she said.

Besides his work with the Scouts, Myers is a talented musician deeply involved in Coffman's music program, specializing in alto saxophone.

He has performed with the Columbus Youth Jazz Orchestra and is a member of the National Honor Society.

He will also take to the Coffman stage in the role of Curly in the school's musical, Oklahoma!

"He's never done anything like this before," his mom, Marsha Myers said, regarding his recent audition for the musical.

Myers said college is definitely in his future.

While he has yet to decide where, "I think I will be majoring in either industrial engineering, music or theology," he said.

Myers said he earned his Eagle Scout designation July 29, 2009, and his court of honor ceremony took place in January.

However, the meaning of the boxes project went a little deeper. Myers is a member of Indian Run United Methodist Church, which is also the home of Welcome Warehouse.

"It's meant a lot as far as earning my Eagle, but it's not about the rank advancement," he said.

"It's about giving back to my community and my church."

For more information about Boy Scout Troop 117, based at St. Brigid of Kildare Church, call Jane Hora at 614-766-4080.

For more information about Welcome Warehouse, visit welcomewarehouse.org or call 614-726-6958.

More information about Indian Run United Methodist Church can be found at indian-run.org; or by calling

614-889-7728.

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--*Jeff Myers*

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