

Young and young at heart team up to make a difference for the homeless

Dux Humanity in Action organizes 'kindness packs' with toiletries

By JONATHAN PAPPALARDO
CLIPPER REPORTER

Dux Humanity in Action, a collaboration between the Duxbury Senior Center, the Duxbury Interfaith Council and Duxbury High School formed in 2018 to honor the humanitarian efforts of the late Harry Katz, is making it easy to aid the homeless population in the Greater Boston Area.

DHS students Julia Ali, Jessica Wieners and Claire Talbot are accepting donations for kindness packs, which Julia Ali describes as "a collection of items that people from the community have donated that we have put together. These packs will be distributed to the homeless people throughout Boston."

Julia Ali said the most needed items include toiletries such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, body wash and deodorant. Other needed items include band aids, water bottles, granola bars and white socks. Donation bins are available at DHS and the Senior Center. The final day to drop off items, according to Ali, is April 24.

She got involved, she says, through a new program at DHS called Time and Tides, in which, according to the school's website, "students and faculty from different disciplines will combine science, math, and the humanities to acquire a greater understanding of themselves and our world in Duxbury."

"For our class we had to pick a local organization or business, then work with them on a project that helps the community in some way," she explains. "We chose the Senior Center and with them we are working on putting together kindness packs for Bos-



Duxbury Senior Center Program Coordinator Andrea Brandeis, Duxbury High School students Julia Ali, Jessica Wieners and Claire Talbot, DHS Time and Tides teacher Catherine Hart and Duxbury Senior Center volunteer Melissa Hammel are part of Dux Humanity in Action, which is working to bring aid to the homeless.

Photo courtesy Brooke McDonough

ton Healthcare for The Homeless."

According to their mission statement, Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program strives to "provide or assure access to the highest quality health care for all homeless individuals and families in the greater Boston area." The Senior Center's Andrea Brandeis, program coordinator for Dux Humanity in Action, says BHCHP was chosen as the Humanity in Action program this year because of the students, who she says, expressed interest in helping the homeless.

The ability for Dux Humanity in Action to partner with an organization is thanks to the Duxbury Interfaith Council, who provides a \$500 grant each year specifically for this purpose. Since Dux Humanity in Action is only a year old, this is the first time DIC has provided the grant money.

Chris Naton, who sits on the board of the DIC says, "The DIC wanted to do something to keep Harry's humanitarian memory alive. He embodied the virtues that the council tries to uphold: compassion, tolerance and respect. He helped anyone in our community that he could. We want to honor him and do work that would make him proud of the DIC."

The efforts by the DHS students to collect donations will cumulate in an event at the Senior Center on April 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The keynote speaker for the event is Katherine Sanders, associate medical director of the Respite Program at BHCHP, who has been working with the homeless population since 2005. "Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program will be presenting stories, photos and information about homeless-

ness in Boston, the community with the homeless population and the services and Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program provides," Brandeis says. "BHCHP will also talk about the root causes of poverty and homelessness and ways our community can help. The audience will be members of the community as well as students from the high school. It is an intergenerational program."

For more information on Dux Humanity in Action, the DHS students encourage everyone to follow @dux-humanity on Instagram and Twitter, where they will be posting updates on the donation efforts and news about the event, in an effort to get those bins as full as possible. "We really just need people to donate items so we can put together a large amount of kindness packs," Ali says. "We are really invested in helping the homeless people of Boston so anything anyone can donate would be amazing."

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Auction at DBMS to benefit Duxbury 2020

Duxbury 2020 is holding a kick-off benefit and auction on Saturday, April 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Duxbury Bay Maritime School.

There will be door prizes, a cash bar and appetizers, as well as silent and live auctions featuring Duxbury memorabilia and historic adventures for friends and family. All are invited to share in informal storytelling about the historic traditions of Duxbury, bid on a Pilgrim-era historic adventure or select from Duxbury memorabilia.

Duxbury resident J.L. Rose, author of the recently released historic novel "Before the Mayflower" is the featured speaker sharing insight into the courage and determination of the Mayflower passengers before they embarked on their voyage.

Proceeds from the event will support Duxbury 2020 projects including rededication of the Myles Standish Monument, opening of Green's Harbor Path, and a commemorative publication "Duxbury - Our Pilgrim Story - a 2020 Perspective" featuring numerous local authors.



Among the items up for auction is the original 1880 general store desk from the W. S. Freeman Store, later known as Sweetser's. This desk was likely made by Winfield Scott Freeman himself in 1877 and his name is inscribed in ink under the top lid.

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