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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/4/09 News Shorts from Manatee Technical Institute: Holiday Service Projects*

Dental Assisting students putting together gift bags for families in Ecuador and Nicaragua:

After hearing a presentation by local dental professionals who donate their services providing dental care to the underprivileged of Ecuador and Nicaragua, the evening Dental Assisting (SkillsUSA and HOSA*) students at Manatee Technical Institute decided to put together gift bags for the traveling team to present to families living in the jungle villages of these countries.

They are assembling 1-gallon ziplock bags containing items that can be used for the family but primarily benefit the children, such as: small packs of crayons, sample bottles of lotion, tooth brushes, small bar soap (no liquid soap or shampoo please, it leaks in transit), small stuffed toys (beanie baby size or smaller), plastic beads and pipe-cleaners (for making crafts), novelty stickers, and other small baby items. They have set up a box in lobby of the Conard Building at the East Campus to receive donations to send with the team on their December trip. The east campus is located at 5520 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. in front of Lakewood Ranch High School. They will be collecting donations through December 11.

For more information, contact Kimberly Bland, CDA, EFDA, M.Ed., Dental Assisting Program Director and Allied Health Programs Liaison, 752-8100 ext 210, blandk@manateeschools.net.

Business Tech students collecting children's Christmas gifts for Salvation Army and eye glasses for Lion's Club: The SkillsUSA Business Technology students are coordinating a children's Christmas gift drive on the Manatee Technical Institute Main Campus. They are asking for new, unwrapped gifts of toys and clothes for children. Collected gifts will go to the Salvation Army for distribution. The main campus is located at 5603 34th St. W. next to Bayshore High School. They will be collecting donations through December 14.

As an ongoing project, the campus Lion's Club is collecting old eye glasses to donate. The students are also learning how to do screenings, which they plan to offer to MTI's Early Educare program and nearby elementary schools.

For more information, contact Sheryl Griggy, Accounting Operations Instructor, Manatee Technical Institute, 751-7900, ext. 2020, griggys@manateeschools.net.

Sending cards to troops

SkillsUSA students in Machining, Industrial Technology, Early Educare, and Massage Therapy are sending holiday cards to our US troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. For more

information, contact Bob Williams, Machining Instructor, Manatee Technical Institute, 751-7900, ext. 2130, williams2r@manateeschools.net.

Culinary Arts students supporting gingerbread contest and sponsoring a family

The primary community service project for the SkillsUSA Culinary Arts students at MTI is the Community Youth Development Gingerbread House Contest. The students will be providing this year's "monument" creation, which will not be in the contest, but rather the centerpiece of the contest's festivities. It is on display at the Sarasota Square Mall until this Sunday at 11 AM. For more information, contact Chef Dana Johnson, Manatee Technical Institute, 751-7900, ext. 2113, or johnson2d@manateeschools.net. More details are available at <http://www.cydonline.org/whats happening/event.cfm?eveID=422>.

The students are also sponsoring a family who would not otherwise have a holiday meal this Christmas by providing dinner with all the accompaniments. For more information, contact Theresa Carter, Manatee Technical Institute, 751-7900, ext. 2262, or cartert@manateeschools.net.

*Students are performing all holiday service projects as members of SkillsUSA or Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). Both are career and technical student organizations devoted to promoting excellence, employability skills and ethics to students to better prepare them for successful careers.

Manatee Technical Institute has won more SkillsUSA medals than any other school in the nation for the last six years. The mission of Manatee Technical Institute is to meet and exceed our community's training and educational expectations.

Photo: MTI culinary arts students Gabrielle Campos and Leroy McDaniel and their baking and pastry chef instructor, Dana Johnson (center), pose with their gingerbread creation of the Ringling Museum. The house was the centerpiece at the Community Youth Development Gingerbread House Contest.

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