

## STUDENTS MAKE GRANOLA BAGS FOR COTS CLIENTS



Students from the University of Vermont's Leadership Learning Community help children attending the elementary after-school program at Burlington's Sara Holbrook Community Center to make bags of granola for the COTS Day Station. More inside. COURTESY

## Children at Sara Holbrook make granola for COTS

### From Staff Reports

Burlington Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

In early February, the children attending the elementary after-school program at the Sara Holbrook Community Center in Burlington walked from the Center's 66 North Avenue facility to the Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) building at 95 North Ave. to deliver 20 quart-sized bags of granola they made and packaged to give to those in need who utilize the Day Station.

Helping the young students (kindergarten-fifth grades) with this community service project were students from the University of Vermont's Leadership Learning Community.

"We all do this work here because we love to help make a positive difference in the lives of others, so we know the value of it," said program director Donna Diaz. "The children we serve are very fortunate to have access to toys, games and craft supplies this generous community donates on a regular basis. We value and

encourage generosity, kindness, and appreciation. We believe the only way these attributes can be cultivated is through action. We want our kids to know what it feels like to be the giver. Our kids feel connected to the larger community when they actually get to help others in such genuine ways."

This isn't the first or the last community service project in which the Center's kids have participated. The granola making project was initiated several years ago when a third-grade student named Quinton asked the after-school director if he and his peers could make food for the homeless. "Who needs us," became the question as kids and staff brainstormed ways to help the community.

What followed were bake sales and "JemonAid" stands to send money through the Red Cross for communities suffering from natural disasters. And on Giving Tuesday this past November SHCC students crafted paper flowers to distribute to their teachers, school staff, crossing guards, and bus drivers to show

appreciation.

Now in its 80<sup>th</sup> year, the Sara Holbrook Community provides support and programs for low-income children and their families. Annually it serves over 1,100 children through its preschool, after-school enrichment programs, summer adventure camp programs, and a teen center. The Center also offers English classes for children through its New Arrivals program, and for adults in collabo-

ration with Vermont Adult Learning.

It also has a small emergency food assistance program. In addition to its programming at Hunt Middle School, the Center has two locations - 66 North Ave. in the Old North End of Burlington and 130 Gosse Court in the New North End of Burlington. All the Center's programs are free or low-cost. For more information, visit the agency's website at [www.saraholbrookcc.org](http://www.saraholbrookcc.org).



Children from the elementary after-school program at the Sara Holbrook Community Center walk to the COTS building on North Avenue to deliver bags of granola. COURTESY PHOTOS



Children pose for a group photo at COTS in Burlington.