



For immediate release

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AREA FAMILIES TO ENJOY SEVERAL MEALS THANKS TO TOUCHMARK AND TOUCHMARK FOUNDATION

BEAVERTON, Ore. — More than 350 Beaverton and Portland families will enjoy meals for three to five days thanks to the generosity of Touchmark and its employees and the Touchmark Foundation. More than 50 employees and their families packed the food boxes December 8 in lieu of a holiday party.

The food will be distributed to nonprofit agencies, low-income senior housing centers and area churches. Beaverton's Elsie Stuhr Center received 100 boxes, which were given to local seniors on Elsie Stuhr Day — including those attending the Loaves and Fishes luncheon.

Each box contains a variety of nutritious, nonperishable food, including meat, cereal, peanut butter, pancake mix, vegetables, rice, pasta, juice and chocolates. The Touchmark Foundation and Touchmark purchased the items from WinCo Foods, which provided the food at a bulk-case rate. The cost of each box is about \$30; several employees and their families donated funds as well.

Nine years ago, Touchmark CEO Werner G. Nistler, Jr. started the tradition of packing food boxes and donating them to those people in need. "Rather than sending holiday cards and throwing lavish parties, we get together and participate in an activity that embraces the true spirit of the season — giving and sharing."

Linda Jo Enger, supervisor of the Elsie Stuhr Center, loves the idea of celebrating the holidays in this fashion and says the food is especially important for older adults. “One in 10 Oregonians is hungry, and we are so appreciative of Touchmark’s program. Stuhr Center seniors have benefited from this for the past four years, and the program supports people who really need assistance.”

“The Touchmark Foundation’s purpose is to improve the lives of seniors, and providing food to seniors who are hungry — or uncertain if they will have enough money for their next meals — is an essential part of achieving our mission,” says Touchmark Foundation Executive Director Janet Plummer. “We hope that the food brings not only nourishment but also the message that we care and are here to provide for those who need some help.”

The Touchmark Foundation is devoted to finding ways to help seniors receive support and services. This includes offering scholarships to those pursuing a career in nursing as well as working to give grants to nonprofit organizations focused on improving the physical, social, spiritual and intellectual lives of older adults.

Touchmark was established in 1980 and is a leader in planning, building and operating communities for those 55-plus years. Located in eight states and a Canadian province, Touchmark communities provide a broad range of homes and lifestyle options.

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