

DOING GOOD

High schoolers learn senior outreach lesson

When the senior citizens who participate in St. Paul's PACE program shared with *The San Diego Union-Tribune* last month what they would like for Christmas, the community stepped up in its customary generous fashion.

Hundreds of items poured in. Nothing luxe like jewelry, Chargers tickets or iPads, but lots of the necessities requested: socks, jackets, shampoo, pillows, toasters.

There was just one hitch. All of the donations were unwrapped, and to transform them into properly festive gifts, an army of elves was needed.

That's where Jeff Morgan's math and physics students at High Tech High came in. Every year, the entire school performs acts of community service, be it beach cleanups, serving meals to the homeless or working with younger kids.



High Tech High students' community service helps seniors.

Last year, Morgan's class adopted the seniors of St. Paul's PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly), which offers a wide range of services — medical, physical therapy, meals — so the seniors won't end up in nursing homes. The high schoolers made care packages, served lunch and played charades with the seniors.

On Friday, the kids repeated the outreach. They wrapped mountains of gifts, which will be distributed to the seniors a few days before Christmas. For many of the PACE participants, these packages will be the only gifts they get.

"It's my sincere hope to teach the kids to be respectful of all people regardless of age, and learn to be a little more selfless and giving," said Morgan.

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