

First Year Experience Class Donates Wreaths To Community Action Clients

As part of the community involvement portion of FYE (First Year Experience) 105, Garrett College students in Ashley Ruby's class made holiday wreaths for donation to families in need through a partnership with Garrett County Community Action Committee (GCCAC) Inc. in Oakland.

Students enrolled in the FYE class created and designed four wreaths to donate.

"I hope our wreaths bring lots of joy and happiness to whoever receives them for the holidays," said Victoria Betz, Garrett College student who resides in Palmyra, Mich.

GCCAC organizes and provides a wide variety of programs that can help needy families heat their homes, provide meals to seniors, weatherize a home, and others.

"Our goal with this activity is to provide a little extra spirit for these families this year," said Ruby. "Additionally, my aim was to promote active citizenship and a community-centered feeling within the college and classroom, and the students always enjoy the opportunity to express their individual creativity. It also encourages positive self-care. With final exams just around the corner, students face a lot of stress and anxiety this time in the semester, and if even for a brief moment, they are able to escape that stress through a hands-on activity."

The FYE 105 class at Garrett College is designed for first-year, and also typically first-generation, college students to help promote academic success, personal growth, self-management, and campus/community involvement. Through the First Year Experience course, students acquire insight into numerous campus and com-

munity resources. They are encouraged to appreciate the role service learning and ethical citizenship play in their college education, including opportunities for involvement.

"In the Aging and Nutrition Department, my co-workers and I assist seniors and adults with disabilities, many of whom have very little family support," said Devynn Brant, Maryland Access Point Program coordinator, at GCCAC. "We help families learn of and understand services available to our aging populations. We often meet families and individuals who have little to no support, and help connect them with services. We know these wreaths will be greatly appreciated by our families."



HOPING TO BRIGHTEN THE HOLIDAYS for area families in need, members of the First Year Experience class at Garrett College made evergreen wreaths and then donated them to Garrett County Community Action Committee Inc., the staff of which will distribute them to those families. Pictured from left, kneeling, are Tyalik Gardner, Baltimore; Brianna Fagbayi, Silver Spring; Kayli

Dunithan, Friendsville; and Victoria Betz, Palmyra, Mich. Standing from left are Ashley Downs, Columbia; Derricka Jackson, Indian Head; Ramonee White, Capitol Heights; Warren Wright, Swanton; Paige Carr, Accident; Abby Collins, Bittinger; Lindsey Shields, Accident; and Ebony Boyd, Baltimore. See story for details.