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LEE CALKINS/Redlands Daily Facts

Japanese exchange students learned about Christian charity efforts at Joseph's Storehouse Thursday. The students are dividing bulk rice into small bags for distribution to poor and needy people.

CHARITY: A number of local churches see Joseph's Storehouse as a way to fulfill their mission to help the poor and needy.

Bring them to the storehouse

why they don't focus on any one church that is involved. "The uniqueness is that it's a team effort," he said.

The team effort has been working very successfully, and today Joseph's Storehouse distributes food boxes to about

1,000 families a week, according to Turley. Additionally about 20 different ministries, from as far away as Pasadena, use the Storehouse as a resource for food to bring back to their cities for distribution, he said.

"The Storehouse has become a model for other cities," said Turley, who has spoken at several conferences, as far away as Jerusalem, about their efforts to help people here in Redlands.

As a result of the cultural exchange program Turley is involved in, the principal of a high school near Nagasaki, Japan, came to see Joseph's Storehouse four months ago, expanding the efforts of the Storehouse to yet another region of the world.

The principal from Sasebo Nishi High School was so impressed with the concept of people helping people he set a policy that at the end of school exchange visits, students would visit Joseph's Storehouse for a first-hand look at how it works, said Turley.

The students, who spent several hours packing rice and sorting canned goods and clothing, were

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Staff Writer

REDLANDS — Normally Thursday's are quiet at Joseph's Storehouse in Redlands. This Thursday, though, there was plenty of activity as 35 Japanese students from the Pacific American Cultural Exchange of Redlands came by for an afternoon of volunteer work.

Before getting started, Craig Turley and Felix Jones, pastors from two of the local churches involved with operating the storehouse, talked to the students about welfare in the United States, and how both the government and private groups, like Joseph's Storehouse, are involved with helping the needy.

Joseph's Storehouse, which began in December 1998 as an offshoot of preparations for possible Y2K problems, is a collaborative effort between eight area churches, who keep their involvement low-key. It is an all-volunteer effort.

"The whole point," Turley pointed out, "is not welfare, or to be a charitable agency, but to be 'The Church,' not 'a church' doing God's work." That is

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impressed with what they saw.

One student, speaking through an interpreter, was surprised at the many kinds of clothes and food she saw.

Another student, who sees the United States as a rich country, was surprised by so many homeless people, especially in cities. She was impressed with the Storehouse, and thought it was a "good system."

Joseph's Storehouse is located at 550 State St., adjacent to Redlands Paint. Hours are Wednesdays noon-4 p.m., Fridays noon-5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9

a.m.-noon. They also distribute food and clothing Saturday morning at Redlands Senior Center, 111 W. Lugonia Ave. from 10 a.m.-noon and Mentone Elementary School, 1320 Crafton Ave., Mentone, from 9-11 a.m.

To drop off donations after hours, call 793-5677 to make arrangements.

Because Joseph's Storehouse is an all-volunteer effort, with limited resources, they ask that clothing donations be laundered, folded, and not have stains, tears, holes missing buttons or zippers that do not work.

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