

The Oregonian

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Teen, peers raise funds to fight hunger

While researching a school project during her freshman year at Lake Oswego High School,

sophomore Amy Carlton, 15, became appalled by the number of children going hungry in the United States.

Months later, Teens Fighting Hunger was under way.

Since spring, Carlton has been organizing arts and crafts sales at farmers markets and local stores to sell goods that she and about 30 other local teens make.

Carlton, who makes earrings, had been looking for a way to help other people. When she found out that, according to the U.S. Depart-



Carlton
Lake Oswego
High student

ment of Agriculture, about 12 million U.S. children are “food insecure” — meaning they are not sure when or where they will get their next meal — she knew what to do.

“Everyone has to eat,” Carlton said.

Teens Fighting Hunger became a 501(c)3 nonprofit in July. Its goals are simple and ambitious: to stop hunger, to raise awareness about hunger and to get teens involved.

In Carlton’s eyes, the organization has done well. With help from private and business sponsors, Teens Fighting Hunger has raised between \$8,000 and \$9,000. All donations go to the Oregon Food Bank.

So far the experience has been rewarding for Carlton, she said.

“It feels so good to accomplish something and help people,” she said. “It is a lot of fun and I have learned a ton about business.”

Teens Fighting Hunger will have a sale from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday at Flying Elephants deli, 5885 S.W. Meadows Road, Lake Oswego.

For more information, visit www.teensfightinghunger.org.

— Patrick Ferguson