

In Brief

Leadership program teaching philanthropy

A team of seven members of the Leadership Eastside Class of 2010 came together last Fall with the broad idea of "wanting to make a difference in the lives of teens on the Eastside." After several months of brainstorming and planning, they are launching what they call the P.E.P. Squad — otherwise known as the Philanthropy Experience Project.

The concept gives groups of up to five teens from the Eastside \$250, and five weeks to leverage and do as much good in the community as they can with that money. At the end of the five weeks, a "Celebration Event" will be presented where the teens, their parents and friends, donors to the program and other members of the community will come to hear about what each group did with their cash.

The idea was born from the idea that, while kids are often recruited for volunteer projects, it's rare that they are actually given real dollars.

The Leadership Eastside team is working with teen centers and youth councils in Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond to recruit the inaugural group of seven teams. Each person on the Leadership Eastside team will serve as an advisor for a group of kids for the five weeks, and will help them with their presentation.

There's only one rule for the teens: They have to do something that will make a difference on the Eastside.

They hope to bring even more excitement about the P.E.P. Squad Project as they continue their fundraising efforts and teen recruitment.

The sponsoring group includes the Kirkland Downtown Association's Julie Metteer.

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