

Press Release

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STUDENT EXTENDS A HELPING HAND

How did a High School Sophomore's desire to develop her leadership skills evolve into a Literacy Project? Hard work determination and talent according to Onalaska Police Department's D.A.R.E. Officer Leah Myers.

"When Makinsey Schmidt approached us with these Literacy bags I was touched and very impressed. This young lady saw a need in our community and took action. She worked with businesses to raise money and put together these bags which are full of books, notebooks and pencils all aimed at encouraging kids to read and improve their writing skills. I work in the schools and I can fully appreciate the kind of impact that a program like this can have."

Makinsey Schmidt is a member of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). FCCLA is a program that seeks to help High School students develop leadership skills through Family and Consumer Sciences Education. Makinsey joined FCCLA to develop her leadership potential and have a positive impact on her community. She worked with the Holmen High and Middle Schools Staff and Students, the Loewenhagen family, OfficeMax,

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Walmart, SHOPKO and her own family to make the Literacy Project a reality. The bags were donated to the Onalaska Police Department and the Boys & Girls Clubs.

"We offered some of the bags to Stepping Stones and they were very happy to get them," said Officer Myers, "our School Resource Officer Matt Jahr and I are planning to work with the school guidance counselors to distribute the remainder where there is need. Ms. Schmidt is an impressive young lady and a true asset to this community."