



# Bienestar

Building housing, hope and futures

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**Contacts:** Karen Shawcross  
Executive Director  
kshawcross@hdcnwo.org  
503.693.2937, Ext. 104  
Cell: 503.330.1717

Nadine Fiedler  
Publications & PR Director  
Catlin Gabel School  
503.297.1894, x301  
fiedlern@catlin.edu

**Website:** [www.bienestar-or.org](http://www.bienestar-or.org)

[www.catlin.edu](http://www.catlin.edu)

## KIDS HELPING KIDS

PORTLAND—More than 3,000 books donated by Catlin Gabel School students are now in the hands of babies and toddlers as well as students in four homework clubs in affordable housing in Aloha, Cornelius and Hillsboro.

The Catlin Gabel book drive was organized by the school's new Service Corps. Catlin Gabel teachers, alumni, students, and families delivered more than 50 boxes of books to Bienestar, a nonprofit community development corporation providing affordable housing and resident services for 460 low-income families in Aloha, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Hillsboro and Scappoose.



The books for infants and toddlers are being used in Bienestar's new Born to Learn Program, which is designed to help parents improve the cognitive development of their children. The books for young children and young adults have been distributed among four homework clubs serving 96 students in Bienestar properties in Aloha (Reedville

Apartments), Cornelius (Jose Arciga Apartments), and Hillsboro (Montebello Apartments and Sunset Gardens). They will also be used in the Summer Reading Safari programs at Bienestar.

“Many of the kids we work with have no books at home. Now, if a student in one of our homework clubs likes a book, we can let them take it home and keep it, thanks to this generous donation from Catlin Gabel School and its students,” said Karen Shawcross, executive director of Bienestar. “And the books for babies and toddlers will help these youngsters get a head-start in life.”

Catlin Gabel and Bienestar have an ongoing partnership at Reedville Apartments in Aloha, where high school students from Catlin Gabel tutor students in the homework club. Nearly all the residents of Bienestar properties are Hispanic, and many are farm workers. To assist the tutors in understanding the Reedville students and their lives, Bienestar gave the Catlin Gabel students a tour of migrant farmworker camps and a workshop on immigration. And a Catlin Gabel student conducted her senior project at Bienestar, assisting in several programs while improving her Spanish.



“Our relationship with Bienestar has been invaluable to our students,” said Lark Palma, head of Catlin Gabel School. “It’s critically important for our students to get out and learn about their community. Our students tell us that they get so much joy, and learn so much, from working with the children at Bienestar. The association benefits all of us greatly.”

Catlin Gabel serves Portland and the world as an educational catalyst, drawing together dedicated educators, motivated students, superb curricular resources, and thoughtfully applied technology, in a beautiful and functional setting, all for the purpose of forming bold learners who become responsible action-takers for life. Catlin Gabel is an independent, non-sectarian, progressive coeducational day school serving 730 students from preschool through twelfth grade. Its roots go back to the Portland



Academy, founded in 1859. The school occupies 54 acres on Barnes Road, five miles west of downtown Portland. For more information, please visit [www.catlin.edu](http://www.catlin.edu).

Bienestar, based in Hillsboro, is a nonprofit community development corporation providing affordable housing and resident services for 460 low-income families in Aloha, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Hillsboro and Scappoose.

Resident services programs are offered onsite for adult and youth residents at the ten Bienestar apartment properties. Bienestar's mission is to build housing, hope and futures for the well-being of working families and seniors. For more information, please visit [www.bienestar-or.org](http://www.bienestar-or.org).

