

## Thursday April 17, 2008 Updated: 6:57 a.m. Search post-gazette NOW: POST-Gazette NOWNeighborhoods Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Baldwin teen group joins effort to help soldiers

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	Dori Gorczyca has a large collection of those fuzzy, collectible Beanie Babies that will soon find their way from her Baldwin Borough bedroom to Iraq, where she is hopeful they will become goodwill gifts.
<ul> <li><u>Versailles may hire</u> <u>ambulances</u></li> <li><u>Elizabeth man raising</u> flowers, funds for charity</li> </ul>	Dori, 14, a freshman at Baldwin High School, is a member of the Whitehall Public Library's Teen Advisory Group that will pack items, such as the Beanie Babies, from 5 to 6 p.m. tomorrow in the borough's Community Room. Then they will be shipped to Iraq as part of the borough's Any Soldier Campaign.
	"It is very important that teens learn about those serving in the military, especially those in Iraq," Licia Slimon, teen librarian said. "It's a way to connect and provide much-needed support and personal items to troops."
	The youth group, ages 12 to 15, meets every other Friday during the school year. Members decided to participate in the program after a presentation by the borough's Diamond Outreach group, which started the effort in February.
	Diamond Outreach is an association made up of representatives of council, recreation board and library, who have joined the nationwide program called the Any Soldier Campaign to collect food and personal hygiene items to be sent to soldiers serving overseas.
	The borough project originally intended to run through Memorial Day has been extended indefinitely.
	Donation collection boxes are located at the library, Allegheny County Airport, Whitehall Elementary School and the Brentwood VFW.
	A list of items being collected is available at the library, and more information on the campaign can be found at www.anysoldier.com.
	Money is needed to cover mailing costs and to purchase other items. Donations should be mailed to the Whitehall Diamond Outreach, Box 97962, Pittsburgh, PA 15227.
	Jim McMahon is a freelance writer. First published on April 17, 2008 at 6:22 am
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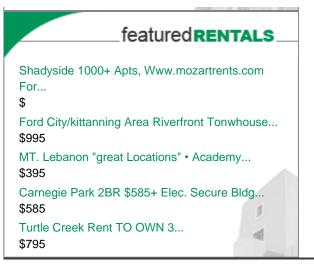
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