

## NEWS RELEASE

Arlington Public Schools  
315 N. French Avenue, Arlington WA 98223  
360-618-6200  
Fax: 360-618-6221  
[www.asd.wednet.edu](http://www.asd.wednet.edu)

Contact:  
Andrea Conley, Public Information Coordinator  
360-618-6217  
[aconley@asd.wednet.edu](mailto:aconley@asd.wednet.edu)

---

**Arlington, WA (December 16, 2015)** – Arlington High School DECA students were overwhelmed by the generosity of the Arlington community the past few weeks. Mr. Ty Payne and his DECA students have conducted a food drive each year just prior to the holiday season. This year, they broke every record by collecting 22,937 food and sundry items along with \$8,307.19 to be used for families in need.

Teams of DECA students stood in the rain on cold afternoons in front of Walmart and both the Arlington and Smokey Point Safeway stores filling box after box with donations. Approximately 50 percent of the donations were collected at the Arlington Safeway. Collecting food was only the beginning of their hard work. For several days now, they have been packaging up food items to make breakfast, lunch, dinner and other sundries for 34 families!

The DECA students used the \$7,500 to purchase gifts for the families to make their holiday even a little more special. The remainder of the funds will be donated to a local family with a high school student who lost their home when the house burned down on December 15. The students have learned the value of volunteering and seeing the results of their efforts benefit local Arlington families.

####