

FEBRUARY 7, 2007

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EVERETT WEATHER

Rainy again
High 49, Low 39
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WEDNESDAY'S Herald

Preschoolers assist in KidsDream auction

A half-dozen preschoolers had fun while helping to make a difference for foster kids in Snohomish County.

The children, who attend preschool together in Lake Stevens, celebrated Kiara Paisley O'Neill's fifth birthday recently at Build-A-Bear workshop at the Alderwood mall. The kids picked out bears, bunnies and other cuddly animals to dress up and decorate. But the stuffed animals were not for the partygoers. Instead the toys were donated to help raise funds for KidsDream of Snohomish County, a nonprofit, volunteer organization that helps fulfill the needs and wishes of abused and neglected children who are in foster care.

The preschool's owner Cindy Brengman accepted the donations, and the stuffed animals will be auctioned as part of a Valentine Gala event, "That's Amore: Give your Heart to a Child," set for Saturday at the Everett Events Center. Brengman serves as event chairman for the dinner, dance and benefit auction, which she hopes will raise more \$30,000.

"The four- and five-year-olds who picked out and helped make the bears liked the idea of donating and helping out other kids while having fun at the same time," Brengman said.

For gala information and tickets, call Brengman at 425-334-6563.



Kiara Paisley O'Neill and her preschool classmates in Lake Stevens recently donated teddy bears and other stuffed toys to an auction that supports KidsDream of Snohomish County.