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## **LEARNINGWORKS ASKS COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT GAME NIGHT TO PROMOTE LEARNING AT HOME**

**PORTLAND** – LearningWorks, formerly Portland West, is turning to the community for donations of new games, cozy food and blankets this holiday season. Jeanne Whynot-Vickers, Director of Educational Excellence explains, “The families served by

LearningWorks – primarily new immigrants as well as at-risk youth – often lack the family culture and actual games which would typically inspire folks to have a cozy game night together on a cold winter night.” Items are being collected up until December 8 and LearningWorks is hosting a Game Night & Open House on December 12 at 4:30 p.m. at 181 Brackett Street.



Individuals and groups have kicked off the drive with enthusiasm. For example, staff of the Portland Museum of Art are working together to contribute games. Beth Penny of South Portland said, "Our Girl Scout Troop 1529 has had a great time brainstorming ideas to raise money to buy games and blankets for the families at LearningWorks - some ideas have been to use redemption money from recycling, do some extra jobs around the house and to ask parents to match contributions. As a mom, I feel like this is a great chance to tell our kids about those in the community who don't have all the comforts to which we're accustomed. This hands-on opportunity really resonates with the girls."





Susan Violet, Executive Director of Wayside Soup Kitchen has committed to providing macaroni & cheese and healthy snack in the 200 bags to be assembled. “Wayside Food Rescue is so pleased to partner with LearningWorks as they create Game-Night Bags for the families we both serve. Food is often the element that brings a family together and a lively evening of games will certainly inspire learning!”