

Wednesday, March 19, 2008 b

GAZETTE COMMUNITY NEWS

Instruments make their way from Whitman to Uganda

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School Notes

BRADFORD PEARSON

ed. And as of January, the instruments were in the hands of a band in eastern Uganda.

"The students are so grateful," Nietert said. "When I told them they were going to get saxophones, they were amazed."

Niertert traveled to Uganda in late December as part of the Women's Microfinance Initiative, a Bethesda group that helps fund entrepreneurial projects in the country. While the instruments wouldn't reach the students for another week, Nietert said watching the band made her think all the work was worthwhile.

"It was remarkable, watching all of these 10- or 11-year-old children playing by ear," she said. "It was totally amazing."

In October, Nietert began collecting instruments at **Walt Whitman High School**, and sent out e-mails to parents at **Walter Johnson** and **Bethesda-Chevy Chase** high schools as well, seek-

ing support. The initiative eventually sent more than 50 instruments, including guitars, saxophones and trombones.

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