
Successful Anonymous Santa program offers thanks

Wednesday, 13 January 2010

This year's program was very successful. Over 170 volunteers helped make it possible; and hundreds more donated gifts and money. Thank you to each of you for brightening a child's holiday and lightening a parent's burden. In a thank you card from a parent "There will never be enough words to explain the burden lifted from this mother."

TO THE EDITOR:

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Anonymous Santa would like to recognize and thank the following for their generous contribution to our annual "Christmas with Dignity" project:

- United Methodist Church of North Branch for hosting our distribution site;

- Peoples Bank of North Branch, for providing space to accept and sort donations;

- Walmart of Forest Lake, their management, Store Manager Duane Nelson and project coordinator Dawn Weber for hosting our major toy collection site, in addition to a generous donation;

- Patriot Bank Minnesota, John Milbauer, Tom Campbell, Sarah Salmela and the staff at Wyoming, Forest Lake and Lino Lakes offices for an exceptional job promoting the program, organizing and collecting the toy drive and coin tube sites in the Wyoming and Forest Lake areas;

- ERA Muske Community Fund for their truckloads of gifts;

- Students, faculty and clubs in the North Branch, Chisago Lakes and Forest Lake Schools;

- ECM Publishers (Post Review and Forest Lake Times) Star Newspapers and Chisago County Press for their continued coverage of our activities;

- Local banks and businesses throughout Chisago County and the Forest Lake area that provided counter space for our coin tubes and accepted toys on our behalf;

- Members of our area churches, youth groups and seniors that had bake sales, mitten & toy drives and generously donated.

A special thank you to Tena Oswell, Cindy Erickson and Kim Labarre for their timeless commitment to the success of this program. The hours of volunteering, the miles driven to pickup gifts and the spiritual energy of this group create the framework for this project.

Lastly, to each of you that donated a gift, money or your valuable time – A huge thank-you! For with those acts of kindness our project was able to brighten the Christmas season for 1,330 children in 552 families throughout Chisago County and the Forest Lake area.

Quotes from thank you cards written by parents express it best ”We are deeply grateful for the kindness and generosity of folks in this community...You are saving angels in a very difficult time...God bless and may the angels shine upon you as you have shined His light on our family!” With great appreciation and pride for the overwhelming generosity and compassion within our communities... thank you.

Anonymous Santa Volunteer

LeeAnn Vande Kamp