



Moon Area School District

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Moon Area Students Show Holiday Spirit

Across Moon Area School District, various students and student organizations participated in service activities throughout the holiday season. Moon Area students donated more than 2,000 items for various food drives, 400 clothing items to Goodwill and West Hills Food Pantry, 316 bagged breakfasts, 73 large bags of books, toiletries, food items, cold-weather items and more for senior citizens in the community, 900 bags of reindeer dust for Moon Area students, \$5,221.97 for Children's Hospital Free Care Fund, \$2,480 for livestock purchases for third world nations through Heifer International, 720 toys for stocking stuffers, Ronald McDonald House charities, West Hills Food Pantry and Toys for Tots, nearly 2,000 letters for military members and veterans, 150 toiletry items for area nursing homes, 100 cell phones for Lions Club and Cell Phones for Soldiers, more than \$2,500 in monetary donations to various organizations including Animal Friends and Make a Wish Foundation and many other items and hours to various area charities.

- Senior Cassie Herbert planned and orchestrated a holiday dinner for 120 people in need at The Ladle in Ambridge. The event included gifts, food and entertainment.
- MAMS students purchased a heifer, a llama and six flocks of chicks as well as a pair each of sheep, water buffalo and goats through Heifer International. Additionally, students purchased five honeybee hives sets and training in beekeeping, six rabbits, three pigs and a hope basket to carry the items produced by their livestock gifts. Funds were raised during the first Dress the Turkey fundraiser. The livestock items will be distributed to those in third-world nations.
- MASD students wrote more than 2,000 letters to veterans and active duty military members in area veteran's hospitals and stationed overseas.
- Bon Meade students provided gifts for 147 patients in area medical facilities in conjunction with WPXI's Presents for Patients program.
- MAMS German students created Gingerbread Houses from scratch that will be displayed in the middle school trophy case throughout the holiday season.
- McCormick Elementary Student Council assisted elderly visitors at Beaver County's Festival of Trees. Students aided any senior citizen who needed their help in viewing the trees and spent quality time with the residents.
- Hyde Elementary Student Council collected toys for Toys for Tots and MAMS Student Councils also held a toy drive to benefit West Hills Food Pantry.
- Allard Elementary put up a Generosity Tree covered in small toys, jewelry and other trinkets, which are donated to Ronald McDonald house and area nursing homes through the Coraopolis VFW.
- Elementary Challenge students raised funds by caroling in Moon Area neighborhoods. The event is a more than 20-year holiday tradition.
- Middle school teams and advisor bases participated in various service projects. The Koala Team collected donations to create holiday bags for senior citizens who utilize the West Hills Food Pantry. Students were responsible for all aspects of the project including donating, packing and decorating the bags as well as writing letters to each recipient. The project was aided by a generous donation from Falconi Groups and a discount by K-Mart. Eagles team collected stockings and stocking stuffers for children ages 18 months to 18 years in a new effort by the team. The Tornados donated breakfast items and packed bagged breakfasts for students who might not otherwise eat breakfast over winter break to the West Hills Food Pantry. Sharks team sold candy cane grams and provided packages of cookies and a monetary donation to West Hills

Food Pantry. Bears team packaged 900 bags of reindeer dust for elementary students in kindergarten to second-grade. Students also donated dog/cat toys, food and blankets and a monetary donation to Animal Friends and cell phones and old glasses for the Moon Township/Coraopolis Lions Club.

- Middle School teachers donated funds to West Hills Food Pantry and High School teachers donated funds to help those in need in the Moon Area community.
- Brooks Elementary students donated funds to West Hills Food Pantry, Make-A-Wish Foundation and K-Mart's "Be a Santa to a Senior" program.
- MAMS eighth-graders raised a record \$5,221.97 in five days in change for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's Free Care Fund through the annual Penny Wars.
- Allard donated backpacks and boxes of school supplies to the Backpack Program.
- Seventh-grade keyboarding students in Susan McKenna and Marie Lyle's keyboarding classes answered Letters to Santa drafted by first-graders at all five Moon Area elementary schools. Students designed their own letterhead and wrote to every student before mailing the letters.
- Bon Meade third-graders in Karen Bell's class took a field trip to World Vision to sort, count and pack school supplies, which are send to needy children around the globe.
- Allard families participated in the Adopt-A-Family program providing a special holiday season to a needy family, while Allard staff donated funds for a special Character Education dinner this spring. Students also provided a monetary donation to Animal Friends.
- Moon Area's Art Department showcased student works at Pittsburgh International Airport throughout the holiday season.
- McCormick Elementary students decorated the building's first Mitten Tree with cold-weather items like mittens, gloves, scarves and hats. Donations supported local families who utilize the West Hills Food Pantry.
- Brooks and Hyde Elementary third-graders created holiday cards for patients at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.
- MAHS Key Club members worked the Salvation Army buckets at K-Mart after-school, lent a hand during the Crescent Township Parks Department Pancake Breakfast and supported the Winter Carnival at the Moon Township Public Safety Building.
- Allard students in Barb Rocco and Rose Tessore's classes created turkey napkin holders to accompany Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels dinners.
- Moon Area choral and instrumental ensembles entertained thousands of people through numerous appearances throughout the area. Choral and band ensembles were asked by special invitation to play and sing at Pittsburgh International Airport, PPG Winter Garden in Downtown Pittsburgh as part of the "Spirit of Giving" lunchtime concert series, Barnes & Noble in North Fayette, Harold's Inn in Hopewell, Ross Park Mall and Moon Township Public Library as well as other locations.
- Moon Area High School's DECA Chapter collected old cell phones for Cell Phones for Soldiers, which gives U.S. soldiers overseas the opportunity to phone home.
- Bon Meade held a Thanksgiving food drive for West Hills Food Pantry and collected nearly 500 items, while the Yellow Jacket team collected hundreds of non-perishable food items and clothing for West Hills Food Pantry and Goodwill Industries.
- Middle School National Junior Honor Society donated canned food items to Santa's Workshop through West Hills Food Pantry.