

Christmas Giving Project was a Huge Success!

Employees of Anson County Schools' Central Office, First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, Jon G's Barbecue in Peachland, Loba-Wakol, Uwharrie Bank, numerous community members, civic organizations including the Anson Women's League, and anonymous donors recently provided Christmas gifts and groceries to over 84 children and their families in Anson County Schools through the Anson County Schools' Christmas Giving Angel Tree Project. Additionally, a generous monetary donation from Jon G's Barbecue, including a trailer full of new and unwrapped toys from The Lift (First Baptist of Indian Trail), allowed us to provide food and groceries to all 27+ families this year.



We were blown away by the generous donation from the campaign Jon G's organized when their owners (Kelly & Jon) had a vision again this year to raise money for groceries and food for needy children and their families in our schools. They had an overwhelming response to their campaign from across North Carolina and other states.

Last week, Kelly and Jon gave First Presbyterian Church a donation of over \$1,500 to go toward the purchase of groceries for each family. First Presbyterian Church had previously set aside \$500, plus donations from church members. With both Jon G's donation and the church's contribution, over 15 buggies full of groceries were purchased to serve needy families.

Let it be known that we have the best Food Lion employees in Wadesboro; there was a team of cashiers, baggers and managers checking out the 15+ buggies. Heidi Caulder (Food Lion Manager) made the grocery shopping experience so smooth - she was amazing! Everyone worked as a team to help fill vehicles full of groceries. It was a heartwarming sight!



Missions/Blessing Bag Project
Any monetary donations that come in after December 17 will be used toward the Missions/Blessing Bag Project at First Presbyterian Church. The Blessing Bag Project (initiated by the children of First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro several years ago) provides enough food each week for 25 children to take home during the weekend. The grocery bags are filled with food and placed in their bookbags for students to take home.

We were humbled by the generosity of the local community, people throughout North Carolina and beyond in making sure our children and their families had a wonderful Christmas this year. And, we were endlessly blessed to see the precious smiles from youngsters and see the tears and hear words of thankfulness from their mothers, grandmothers, and fathers as families received their gifts. It was equally moving to hear excitement of the employees and citizens who contributed toward this project. Each person and business gave so willingly while knowing very little about the child - beyond his or her gender and age - for whom they had purchased gifts or donated money toward feeding. It's much more wonderful to give than to receive, and a lot of people made 2022 a great Christmas for so many children. The hope and joy given to the families are priceless!

A BIG THANK YOU goes to the school guidance counselors, social workers, nurses and principals; it wouldn't have been possible without their willingness to work with the families and provide gift information for the project. Lastly, a special thanks to First Presbyterian Church members and their youth who worked behind the scenes, Anson County Schools' Central Office staff and custodial crew for helping organize and transport gifts and for helping make this project a success through their amazing teamwork.

Article and pictures submitted by Anne Trexler Hyatt, Public Information Officer, Clerk to the Board of Education, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent



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