



Students serve others for holidays

This is the season of giving. And giving is exactly what schools throughout Davis School District did this holiday season.

Of course, that giving does not occur without the generosity of so many in the community, including many business partnerships. The efforts will touch lives within district boundaries and even expand throughout the state, nation and world.

Fundraising endeavors saw students performing, collections accumulating in bins and teachers and administrators agreeing to outlandish consequences they would undertake if students achieved fundraising goals.

The following is a compilation of a few of those efforts:

Davis Education Foundation in partnership with community partners provided:

- 470 junior high students with Christmas through the Junior High Spree with more than \$70,500 raised.

- Christmas for 175 students from **Bountiful,**

Orchard, Adelaide and Oak Hills elementaries and the **Head Start Program** thanks to \$30,000 from a Jolly Sub for Santa Group in Bountiful.

- 350 families (more than 1,000 students from across the district) received Christmas from the Angel Tree Program for a total of about \$175,000.

- 500 high school students received gift cards for Christmas totaling \$25,000.

- **South Clearfield's** kindergartners each received new shoes and socks thanks to a \$3,000 donation from Mountain America Credit Union.

- The students from **Mountain High** received new pillows, blankets and a book for the holidays thanks to Aetna.

Odyssey Elementary's first grade collected more than 100 pairs of pajamas for the women's shelter in Midvale.

Sunset Elementary also took up a pajama collection, donating 200 to the Christmas Box House.

Refugees and homeless families will benefit from the

warmth of blankets and knit hats created by **Reading Elementary** students. Fleece blankets were tied and hats were loomed by each student in the fourth-grade. Students also collected more than 500 books during a book drive. They even donated 200-plus gloves to the Lantern House.

Collections from **West Bountiful Elementary** are headed to Patamban, Mexico. The student council adopted the small village in conjunction with a local service organization. A bus load of school supplies, shoes and toys will

be delivered to the village on Christmas Eve thanks to the school community's generosity. Second-graders also made blankets for the Geraldine E. King Women's Center. And the first grade is collecting old and used crayons and will recycle them into new crayons for use in children's hospitals. Spectrum classes at the school collected items to give to families that have moved into a safe house to escape abuse.

From penny wars to dollar wars, a little competition among grades meant donations

at several schools. At **Sunset Junior High** nearly \$10,000 was raised to provide necessities for families in the district. At **Fairfield Junior High**, the penny wars raised more than \$3,000 for Safe Harbor. Teachers and administrators shaved their heads and ate worms because of the overwhelming donations.

Additionally, Rachele Woodbury's eighth-grade English classes collected Christmas gifts for a family at the Lantern House homeless shelter. At **Bluff Ridge Elementary** a penny wars raised \$1,323 for cancer research with Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Several of the district's high schools went all out with their fundraising efforts. Heads were shaved, coveted bow ties were auctioned off and trees, food and other items were sold to raise thousands of dollars. **Davis High** set a goal of \$20,000 for their fundraiser for homeless students in the



Students at South Clearfield Elementary show off their new shoes.

SERVICE, From Pg. 1

district. Other events included a pillow and blanket drive for **Mountain High** students, canned food drive and more. **Layton High** hopes to raise \$40,000 for homeless students in the district. Some of their fundraising efforts also went towards purchasing an activity book and stuffed animal for every student at **Crestview Elementary**. Events included selling wrapping paper, cookies, poinsettias and ornaments, a 5k and donut deliveries. At **Viewmont High**, the annual Vikings Give expects to bring



Students at Columbia Elementary put hats and gloves on the collection tree.

in \$83,000. Part of the funds raised will bring Christmas to students at Spectrum Academy. Students collected donations throughout the community, held a tree festival and put on a carnival to raise funds. **Clearfield High** raised \$57,000 with its annual Falcons are Fabulous campaign. Funds will be donated to the **Davis Community Learning Center**.

At **South Clearfield Elementary**, the Kindness Club made Christmas cards and a paper tree for a girl in the burn unit at University of Utah Hospital. The sixth-grade students at **Kaysville Ele-**

mentary also made 3-D cards for a burn unit patient.

Adams Elementary's student council conducted a toy drive for local hospitals and were able to collect multiple items.

Farmington Elementary's fourth grade put together 200 pantry packs for the Bountiful Food Pantry using \$700 they raised. **Knowlton Elementary** also provided food items for the pantry. The students collected 2,100 items during the Trim the Tree drive. Additionally, **Oak Hills Elementary** collected 194 food items. **Windridge Elementary** is still in the process of collecting canned food for the pantry and also collected toys for the Frodsham Community Christmas.

Woods Cross, Syracuse and Ellison Park elementary schools and Kaysville and Centennial junior highs raised more than \$23,000 total for Sub for Santa. **Lakeside Elementary** also does an angel tree to help those in need. And **South Davis Junior High** raised \$1,615 to help purchase gifts for 34 students at their school who would go without Christmas.

The fifth grade at **West Point Elementary** tied 10 quilts as part of the Colonial Unit. The quilts were then donated to the Festival of Trees to raise money for Primary Children's Hospital. The Student Council also had a canned food drive the first two weeks of December to help the Layton Open Door Food Bank. A grand total of 5,137 food items was

See **SERVICE, Pg. 3**

Superintendency message

Reflecting back on a decade of accomplishments

Another year and decade are coming to an end. As we reflect on the past 10 years, several things come to mind. We fought our way through the terrible recession of the early part of this decade. We managed over \$70 million of budget challenges with minimal impact to student learning. We added 11 new schools and one rebuild to accommodate 7,000 new students since 2010.



Craig Carter

The most important accomplishment this decade is our attention to the individual student and his/her success. In 2014, the Board of Education and district leadership decided to implement a districtwide accreditation. We were then and continue to be today, the only district in the state that has a district accreditation. They use a measure called the Index of Education Quality (IEQ). It is how they determine the quality of instruction observed. Our 2014 IEQ rating was 286, which was slightly above the national average of 278-283.

In October, we entertained a team of 18 visitors to renew our accreditation. Their focus was on data that supported what we told them we were doing. The key part of their verification process was visiting classrooms and seeing firsthand the instruction happening in classrooms. Their team visited 255 different classrooms and observed what happens there every day. Just before the Thanksgiving break, we received our IEQ rating of 339 for 2019.

See **MESSAGE, Pg. 4**

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SERVICE, From Pg. 2

donated.

Syracuse High focused its food collection efforts on the pantry at Northridge High. A truck plus three other cars were filled with the donations.

Sunset Junior High's choirs went on tour to three care centers. Not only did they provide a gift of song, but they also made cards for the guests and visited with the residents.

Antelope Elementary put together Giving Bags with travel-size toiletries, a bottle of water, pair of socks and granola bar to be handed out to someone looking for help.

West Clinton Elementary's first-graders in Devre Carter's class collected and created items for Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. Over 100 items were collected.

A **Farmington High School** student in conjunction with Vista Education Center and various schools collected 30,000 grocery bags, which will be weaved into sleeping mats for the homeless.

Syracuse Elementary students wrote at least 300 cards



West Bountiful Elementary students shop for toys to send to a small Mexican village.

to be delivered to the military.

At **Sand Springs Elementary**, students collected toys for shelter cats, blankets for refugees in the Middle East and created mindfulness rocks for refugees in the U.S.

The Twelve Days of Christmas was the theme at **South Clearfield Elementary** where

they collected money from each class

for 12 days. The total? \$1,586. That is enough to buy 205 duffle bags for children who need something to hold their things when they have to move around.

Syracuse High's Dance Line (drill team) delivered 250 Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Bags — filled with Gatorade, beef jerky, trail mix and protein bars — and 400 Kids Kits — containing coloring book/crayons, play dough, sticker sheet, snap bracelet, water bottle and fruit snack. Officers keep them in their cars to give to children when they respond to calls where it would be helpful to take the child's mind off what happened. **Woods Cross High's** FFA also put together kits. They donated 12 to the police station.

Knowlton Elementary's choir sang Christmas songs to the residents at Legacy House in Farmington. Can-



Layton High students deliver stuffed animals and activity books to every student at Crestview Elementary.

yon Creek Elementary families donated gently used or new toys and winter clothing for children in need. The horse-trailer full was donated to the Frodsham Community Christmas event. Families could also choose a tag off the Giving Tree and purchase an item to donate to a child.

Meadowbrook Elementary used a little healthy competition between rival teams (BYU and U of U) to collect food for Bountiful Food Pantry and 300-plus socks.

The Student Service Squad at **Sand Springs Elementary** sold Candy-Grams to the student body with all proceeds being donated to The Christmas Box House. They raised more than \$1,350.

The National Honor Society at **Farmington High School** raised \$1,200 with a dash for cash to help seven kids in the Head Start program. They took the money raised and shopped for the kids.

At **Burton Elementary**, a third-grade class collected canned food for the Layton Food Bank.

Farmington Bay/Renaissance Academy created 120-plus holiday cards for residents of the George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home.

Layton High School's FCCLA along with the Early Childhood Training Center gathered warm clothing to donate to victims of human trafficking.

Creskide Elementary conducted a Thanksgiving food drive sponsored by their Leader in Me Service Action Team. More than 2,680 pounds of food was collected for the Layton High Food Pantry.

Sunset Junior High's cheerleaders collected donations from businesses and families to help 28 kids during Shop With a Cop. The **Latinos in Action** program also collected over 750 pounds of warm clothing, blankets and boots for Operation Cover-up.

The Brave Bough Bash at **Bountiful High School** raised \$1,000 to help students in need.

Viewmont High School's HOSA Club tied 18 blankets for Primary Children's Hospital.

SERVICE, From Pg. 3

At **Bountiful Elementary**, a third-grade class collected enough items to fill 45 holiday bags for senior citizens at the Village on Main apartments, first-graders collected over 40 stuffed animals to give to Primary Children's Hospital, second-graders gathered several blankets, hand warmers and gloves to give to the Homeless Shelter, the Student Council held a school-wide campaign to collect "Pennies for People in Need" amounting to about \$568 to help assist the Bountiful Food Pantry. A generous donation will also help a family in need with clothing and toys. Two girls in the school went without birthday presents to give something to a second-grader in that family.



West Point Junior High students serve as "elves" at the Community Christmas celebration, which serves students in Weber and Davis County.

Tolman Elementary's second-graders gathered items for breakfast packs to donate to the Food Pantry. They were able to create nine packs.

More than 4,800 food items were gathered by **Endeavour Elementary** students and donated to the Frodsham Community Christmas.

The **National Honor Society at West Point Junior High School** supported the Bountiful Food Pantry with over \$1,400 raised through student donations. The **Warrior Officers** sponsored an Angel Tree to benefit the 10th Annual Community Christmas at Ben Lomond High School. The event features a Christmas Carnival for kids and a shopping area where parents can pick out gifts for the children at no cost to them. Students collected gifts and were "elves" helping the children enjoy crafts and entertainment while their parents shopped for gifts collected from the Angel

MESSAGE, From Pg. 2

That reflects an increase of 53 points since 2014. We don't know of any other district with an IEQ score above 300. They were overwhelmed with the work of our teachers each and every day.

The ultimate measurement of how well we are doing from kindergarten through high school is how many students graduate. We recently received our latest graduation rates from the Utah State Board of Education.

Our graduation rate improved from 95 percent in 2018 to 96 percent in 2019. To move 1 percent when in the mid-90 percentile of any measurement is extremely difficult to do. This is a reflection upon our entire team of educators K-12 and our support professionals that take care of the back story.

All of our sub-populations improved as well and many lead the state in graduation rates. Since 2010 we have seen an improvement in graduation of 15 percentage points, from 81 percent to 96 percent graduation. That

Trees. Additionally, the Exploring Business and Marketing class designed and made buttons to raise funds for the project.

Snow Horse Elementary collected cleaning kits and baby wipes for refugee families.

Students at **Columbia Elementary** filled a tree in the office twice with donations of hats and gloves for the women's shelter and homeless.

The **Kaysville Junior High functional skills after-school club**, called Perfect Pals, made Christmas frogs out of felt and filled them with candy. Festival of Trees sold them for \$3.50 each in their Kiddie Corner.

Ellison Park Elementary's Student Council headed up a school-wide Sub-for-Santa. Students contributed

\$4,450 to help families in need.

Woods Cross High School provided Christmas for 293 children in the Salt Lake area in addition to providing gifts for 145 local families.

The district's **Maintenance Department** participates in an Angel Tree each year to provide Christmas for families in Davis County. This year they were able to provide Christmas for three families, each with multiple children. The **Transportation Department** also did a Giving Tree to help seven families with gifts and money for food. Additionally, they conducted a sock and underwear drive and collected 385 pairs of socks and 200 pairs of underwear. The district's **English Language Arts Coordinators** donated a truckload of new, wrapped gifts and other items to the Frodsham Community Christmas.

reflects a caring adult team working with each student individually to help them achieve their personal goals.

As we begin a new decade, let us be grateful for the legacy left by our former educators and the caring devotion of our current educators. From the Board of Education and the Superintendent, have a very happy and safe holiday season with family and friends.

— Craig Carter,
Business Administrator