



Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

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Creekside, Northwood middle schools raise \$3,600 for Christmas Clearinghouse

A friendly rivalry between Creekside and Northwood middle schools helped make the holiday season brighter for scores of area children.

Falcons and Warhawks students participate in Coin Wars each December, raising funds to buy toys for the Woodstock Rotary Club's Christmas Clearing House program. Students are encouraged to donate coins to their classroom jars and donate bills to the classrooms that they want to lose.

Christmas Clearing House identifies hundreds of families within the Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 boundaries who could use some assistance in celebrating the holidays. Volunteers deliver food and toys gathered from donations made by generous community members.

Creekside and Northwood staff make Coin Wars a fun competition among classrooms in their schools and across town, as the schools also compete against each other. The winner has changed hands over the years, but Creekside came out on top this year.

"We appreciate all of the donations. It's always a lot of fun and a great way to help our students express the spirit of the holiday season and do something to help their peers," Creekside Principal Ryan Doyle said.

Creekside staff and students raised about \$2,300 while Northwood collected nearly \$1,400, with a total among the two schools of more than \$3,600. Students and staff used the proceeds to shop for toys to donate to the Christmas Clearinghouse effort.

Northwood Principal Bethany Hall said her students had hoped to collect more than Creekside this year, but said everyone is happy with the ultimate result.

"We are thrilled to say that in the end, our community is the big winner with nearly \$3600 raised between the two middle schools. We are so proud of our students and community for their work to provide holiday cheer to so many," Hall said.

Melissa Thornton's 7th-grade class raised the most money at Creekside, while Kylie Fahey and Mollie Busse's 8th-grade class was the winner at Northwood.

Students and staff members had fun spending the funds on shopping sprees. The purchased gifts were sent to Christmas Clearing House representatives for distribution to area families.