

## **Dover Students and Staff Give Back to Those in Need**

Winter brings many opportunities for our students and staff to give back to our local community. The students and staff at each school work to make the giving fun by having class competitions or dress-up days. It is this spirit of giving that makes Dover City Schools such a special place.

At Dover Avenue Elementary, many individual classes have plans for giving back, including donating pet food, pet toys, cleaning products and cash to the Tuscarawas Humane Society. Some are collecting hats, gloves and other items in to take to the local homeless shelter.

By the first week of December, South Elementary students had already purchased every item listed on the back of paper ornaments on the tree in the school's hallway. These gifts will be given to children in our community to make their Christmas brighter. The school is also holding a gently used coat collection and students and teachers will work together to make ornaments to deliver to senior living homes.

Students at East Elementary took part in a food collection for the Tuscarawas County Share-A-Christmas program. The school also collected canned food items and cash donations to go toward the Greater Dover-New Philadelphia Food Pantry.

Led by its student council, Dover Middle School adopts families during the holidays, using fundraising money to provide gifts for families in need. The school also has a canned food drive and a Secret Santa program to provide school supplies to children throughout the district.

You'll likely see Dover High School students braving the elements to ring the bell at various Salvation Army spots around town. The DHS Student Council collects funds to donate to needy families and the Interact Club leads the school in a coin drive and toy-purchasing outing for the local Share-A-Christmas program.

While we recognize our students and staff for their generosity, we are also thankful to live in a community that gives abundantly to our schools. Parent groups donate items for our staff, students, and families. Many community members have given private donations toward making the new high school even better for our students and community. Local contractors and businesses are working together to build and supply materials for the new building. The investment of our local contractors reaches beyond the financial gains. They are working to build the best high school they can for their children and the children of their friends and neighbors.

We have a lot to celebrate in Dover City Schools. It is efforts like those taking place across the district that remind us how amazing it feels to do something for others. Our community does so much for us and we are blessed to be able to give back.