

## Dover Students Find a Way to Give Back to Our Community

As November is the month to count our blessings and give thanks, December provides many opportunities to enjoy the act of giving. Dover staff and students engage in service projects throughout the school year and even more during the holidays. This district and community are blessed by adults who model selfless acts of kindness and giving to their fellow man.

Dover High School Key Club and Interact Club members hosted their annual toy drive for Share-A-Christmas. Some activities that helped to raise the funds to purchase toys included a pajama day for students and jeans day for staff members. This year our staff and students donated eight boxes of toys for families in Tuscarawas County. Our Interact students also sponsored a fundraiser for the Humane Society of Tuscarawas County.

Additionally, Interact students have been writing cheer-up notes to seniors at Hennis Care Center for the holidays. Students create note cards with well wishes that can be handed out to seniors who may be feeling isolated and lonely. The students each wrote two notes and the club supplied treats (Reeses & Kit Kats) to be given with the notes. This group also sent Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas notes. Thanks to the creativity of our staff and students, these clubs have found ways to stay busy but still abide by all COVID safety protocols.

Dover Middle School staff, students, and parents have worked together to provide food, clothing and gift cards to families over the holidays. Share-A-Christmas is also a favorite community program for our students to support.

At Dover Avenue, our students in fourth and fifth grades have been busy with a variety of projects. Students in grade four collected items for the Tuscarawas County Humane Society. This project was coordinated with their reading of "Shiloh," a novel about a boy trying to save a dog who he feels is being mistreated. Students in Mrs. Monteith's class donated household items to the Tuscarawas County Friends of the Homeless and students also made Christmas cards to send with the items. The Dover Avenue Parent-Teacher Group and students enjoyed a variety of dress up days to collect money to provide clothing items for families in need within the school.

Across the district our three elementary buildings have sponsored dress-up days leading into the holidays. The money collected was donated to Share-A-Christmas. Staff members in all buildings have activities throughout the year to raise money for Relay for Life.

The generosity of our Dover community is evident all year, but most especially during the month of December. The staff and students at Dover City Schools are privileged to be a part of these acts of kindness and generosity, and our students truly benefit in many ways from these important volunteer activities by learning the value of giving back. On behalf of Dover City Schools, we wish you a safe and happy holiday.