HAPPY HOLIDAYS

"The joy of brightening other lives becomes for us the magic of the holidays."- W. C. Jones

The Barnegat Township School District would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for supporting our families who are experiencing hardships this holiday season. We take pride in the collective effort to ensure that all of our students can experience the magic of the holidays. Preparations for this massive undertaking begin in September and continue throughout December. This would not be possible without the generosity of our caring and compassionate staff and community.

Gifts for the holidays were provided to 126 families, including 367 children, through the generous donations of our local community. Thank you to Mrs. Michele Cucinotta, Drug-Free Community Coordinator/K-8 Student Assistance Coordinator, for her dedication and commitment to coordinating assistance for our families this holiday season. We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to help brighten the holidays and show our Barnegat families the true spirit of the season!

- District schools held Jeans Day fundraisers to support our families in need. 61 families were adopted between the six schools.

- The Barnegat PBA 296 held its Annual Toy Drive. Officers collected toys from local businesses and Elfie's House. Toys were delivered and sorted for distribution to the individual schools. Monetary donations were also provided by the officers to fund additional items for our students. Elfie's House also donated $450 in gift cards to provide food for our families.

- A staff member donated $100 to support our families.

- The Barnegat Transportation Department adopted a family to provide gifts for the holiday.

- The BHS Environmental Club donated $800 to provide gifts to our families in need.

- Nine children ages 8-13 years old participated in "Shop with a Cop" at Walmart in Little Egg Harbor. Barnegat Police officers were on hand to assist the children while they shopped.

- The Wright Presbyterian Church of Barnegat donated $750 to support our families in need.

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

"For it is in giving that we receive."-St. Francis of Assisi

- The Barnegat Rotary Elf Program adopted 21 families. The BHS Interact Club, along with students from Mr. Peters and Mr. Simmler's classes, assisted the Rotarians with shopping for gifts at Target for 50 children.

- The Heritage Bay Book Club donated 30 pairs of pajamas to keep our children warm at night.

- Pheasant Run community members adopted ten families.

- Seacrest Pines community members adopted a family and provided $650 in gift cards to help additional families in need.

- The Men's Club at the Mirage donated a family meal for the holiday.

- Three Barnegat families each adopted a family.

- Keller Williams Preferred Properties adopted a family.

- A community member donated $250 to support our families.

MAY YOUR DAYS BE MERRY AND BRIGHT!

"Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give."-Ben Carson

- A community member provided $250 in gift cards.

- To keep our families warm, Bayside Chapel's Annual Winter Coat Drive provided 95 new coats for children as well as their parents.

- The United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties Warm Wishes Program provided 80 new coats and 250 pairs of Bomba socks for our students.

- The Barnegat Grinch and family organized two community events at their home and utilized the funds collected to adopt seven families, including twenty children.

- The Waretown United Methodist Church adopted ten families and provided a family meal for the holiday.

- Sea Breeze at Lacey community members adopted three families.

- A Lacey couple donated $400 to provide gifts for our families.

- Students, staff, and community members donated comfort and personal care items to the Christmas in Camouflage program that provides care packages to soldiers deployed overseas.

WISHING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!