

Dear Community,

Once again, I have been reminded just how amazing this community is that I call home. As the coordinator of the Weekend Food Program, I was recently looking at a bank account that was down to zero and a food pantry that was running out. In an attempt to keep the program afloat at least through the holidays, I put out a request for monetary donations to the community. All I did was write a quick letter and post it to Facebook. I was hoping for a couple hundred dollars--maybe a thousand if we were lucky.

Once again, I underestimated the incredible generosity in our community. As soon as the message was posted to Facebook, I began getting emails and phone calls from individuals and businesses committing to help. A few days later, the mail began arriving. Checks and cash came pouring in from cities and towns I've never even heard of, in numbers and amounts I couldn't even dream of... from the anonymous \$25 cash donation that a parent sent to school in their child's backpack, to the \$5,000 check hand-delivered by a local business. I am thrilled to share that we have received well over \$10,000 to date! Each and every contribution has allowed our program to be funded not only through the holidays, but also through the rest of the school year!

From the bottom of my heart, I want to say thank you. I thank you, my NHS students--the ones who keep this program running like a well-oiled machine--thank you, and on behalf of the kiddos who take this food home every week, thank you. Thank you for the generosity that you found in your heart during this Christmas season to give and bless others in their time of need.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shephard