

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Dec. 15, 2017

For about a decade, Debbie Wipert and her Game Plan elves have spearheaded an effort to bring Christmas to those in the program who may not otherwise be able to celebrate.



The first year, she said, they bought presents for only four students.

“It’s grown from there,” she said, as this year the staff members are trying to get sponsors for 18 students.

So far, almost half of the families have either received a sponsor or staff members have donated cash to go toward gifts.

Debbie wears many hats during the season, also becoming a detective to learn what the students need.

“The families don’t know the gifts are coming so we’ve become pretty sneaky on how we get gift ideas,” Debbie said.

“They’re not asking for anything big. They asking for clothes; a coat; some gloves.”

One year, Debbie said, a student asked for pencils because she never had them for school.

“I love getting and giving school supplies. People don’t think it’s a big deal, but it is.”

If you’d like to sponsor a student, contact Debbie Wipert at (740) 642-1277. Cash and gift card donations also are welcome. If purchasing gift cards, Debbie recommends fast food restaurants, Kroger or Walmart in \$10 denominations. Submit your donations to Debbie by Monday.



Students in Jada Truex’s Sports Medicine Technologies program collected food for holiday dinners for Game Plan students. In front, from left, are juniors Luke Watson from Logan ELm, Mackenzie Price from Westfall and Ben Davis from Circleville.

This year, students in the magnet programs at the Mound Street campus are also helping. Students in Sports Medicine Technology, taught by Jada Truex, and Veterinary Science, taught by Rachel Scior, are collecting food to provide holiday meals for Game Plan students.



“They came to us,” Debbie said of the students. “I think it’s just awesome.”

Donations will be collected through Monday and presents will be wrapped Tuesday. Debbie and the Game Plan staff will make deliveries to homes Wednesday through Friday.

“This is a high-stress job,” Debbie said. “But this is the rejuvenating time for our staff, to see the joy when we deliver the gifts and food.”

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