

News Release



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Union members and their employer say “Happy Holidays” to Union and Wallowa County children

Two weeks ago, Chris Evans, Community Development Coordinator with the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), received a phone call that put a broad smile on his face. A representative for the Local 2780 of the Carpenters Industrial Council was on the other end and told him they wanted to make a donation. The Carpenters Industrial Council represents Boise Cascade employees at their mills in Elgin, Oregon. The union representative told Evans that their members had decided to donate a total of \$5,740 for the benefit of children in Union and Wallowa County.

The union members wanted to make sure as many children as possible would receive holiday gifts. Boise Cascade’s management team in Elgin added another \$1,000, bringing the total donation to \$6,740. Add to that a regular annual donation of \$500 by local utility company Avista Corp. and a total of \$7,240 was now available. A nice amount for Chris Evans and his coworkers with the DHS Self Sufficiency and Child Welfare programs to go toy shopping with.

DHS staff members immediately began working with community organizations and providers to put together a list of families who had missed out on other local toy drives. “We had to turn families away this year because the need was larger than the donations we had received,” said Evans. Excited about the generosity of community members, Evans said, “They want to bring joy to children in Union and Wallowa County, and that’s what we are going to do.”

By donating their union gift cards of \$25 each, union members and their company’s leadership sent a caring message to the children in their communities and in their own way said “Happy Holidays.”

Individuals interested in learning more about the services provided by these programs can find information at oregon.gov/dhs or by calling the local Oregon DHS office for Self Sufficiency and Child Welfare at (541) 963-8571.

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