

DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



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Holiday spirit flows in abundance, thanks to the Holiday Project

The generosity of Allegheny County businesses and individuals once again made the season merry and bright for youth served by the Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF).

The DHS Holiday Project reached more than 3,400 children this year, with 2,200 directly sponsored by individuals and corporations such as UPMC, PNC Financial Services Group, and Shady Side Academy, to name a few. Youth that were not directly sponsored received thoughtful gifts that were handpicked by volunteers at the Holiday Project workshop. These gifts – which included sporting equipment, toys, gift cards, arts and crafts supplies, and books – were donated by individuals and organizations, including AFL-CIO, National Cyber-Forensics & Training Alliance, and the Three Rivers Leather Club.

“Each year we reach out to sponsors and donors hoping they will continue to support this incredible project and they continue to come through in bigger and better ways year after year,” said Shelli Luchs, event and donations coordinator in the Office of Community Relations (OCR). “The emails we receive from our CYF staff noting a child’s reaction to a gift they’ve been hoping for make this project so worthwhile. Knowing that for one day the families we serve get to experience a small slice of normalcy is priceless.”