



# DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County  
Department of Human Services



January 2020

## **Holiday Project has another successful year**

Thanks to the generosity of individuals, businesses and organizations around Allegheny County, 3,600 children served by the Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) and Homeless Services received gifts this holiday season through the DHS Holiday Project.

Allegheny County Airport Authority, Evoqua Water Technologies, PNC Financial Services Group, Shady Side Academy, UPMC and many others donated countless toys, toiletries, household goods, cash and gift cards to brighten the holidays for local children and youth, ages newborn to 21 years old.

This year, in addition to the more traditional donations and sponsorships, the Office of Community Relations' (OCR) event and donations team received gifts from several donors who used creative methods to collect gifts from their networks. Some of those efforts included sharing a request for donations on a personal social media page, collecting gifts for the Holiday Project in lieu of holding an office-wide white elephant gift exchange, and hosting a gift drive as a senior capstone project.

"The Holiday Project ensures that children and youth in our care, and their families, have a positive experience with DHS. Our goal is to ultimately provide each child with a gift that's unique to them and makes them feel special," said Shelli Luchs, event and donations coordinator. "This year's Holiday Project saw a 17% increase in children sponsored. We are continuing to solicit new sponsors, which allows us to use the gifts provided through our general donation collections in a more thoughtful way at the Holiday Project Workshop."

Donations for the Holiday Project are collected throughout the year, and gifts may be purchased at any time through the Holiday Project's Amazon wish list: <http://bit.ly/HP-WishList>. All items purchased through the wish list will be delivered directly to the Holiday Project Workshop.