

DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



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Donations from local sports teams keep youth active

Thanks to generous donations from the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Pittsburgh Riverhounds, local youth will soon be receiving new sports equipment and clothing.

Earlier this year, DHS's event and donations team reached out to local sports teams including the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Pittsburgh Riverhounds to discuss opportunities for collaboration around the Holiday Project Sporting Goods Drive.

The Pirates offered to hold an equipment drive of their own, collecting new baseball gear at their August 17 game. Later that evening, the Pirates presented a \$5,000 check to Shelli Luchs, event and donations coordinator, on the field. This donation was provided through the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, a grant program of Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association, and will allow for the purchase of baseball, softball, t-ball and wiffleball equipment for more than 300 local youth.

The Riverhounds soccer team also supported the Holiday Project by donating thousands of clothing items, including new t-shirts, shorts and cleats.

"Although there is a lot of attention on how much time children are in front of screens or how seldom they enjoy outdoor play, we're delighted to see that children served through the Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) often include requests for sporting goods on their wish lists, showing they want to spend time outside. Through the support of the Riverhounds and the Pirates, we can make those dreams come true," said Shelli.

She added, "It's incredibly meaningful to know that organizations that many of our youth look up to have taken such an interest in the Holiday Project and care enough to support the wishes of our youth. It just reiterates how important it is to support the local community and how much of an impact a gesture like this can make."

The event and donations team are still accepting donations of new sporting equipment. To donate, visit DHS's sporting goods [wish list](#) on Amazon. Items purchased through the wish list will be delivered directly to DHS.

For more information about the Holiday Project or the sporting goods drive, contact Shelli Luchs at Shelli.Luchs@AlleghenyCounty.us.