



Dear Students and Parents:

Every year during the holiday season, each high school student is asked to donate money in their homeroom class in order to provide a Christmas for a needy child within our own elementary schools at Claymont. This is not simply a matter of providing each child with a gift, but an entire Christmas. The gifts that are delivered to the homes include a food basket as well. Families in need are identified by a committee in the district, which includes counselors, teachers, and school support personnel.

This tradition began at Claymont High School when former principal, Jeff Gyurko, saw a need for the program in the late 1980's. It has since flourished and many local businesses contribute as well. The kids and parents in our high school, though, are the major supporters of this program and are very generous.

Mrs. Seibert, who is one of the leaders of this program, feels that this is a great way to show how a small community can come together to help our own. "Each kid gets to ask for one special wish gift," Seibert explains, noting that the "special" gifts often include bicycles, scooters, or tablets. "Plus, each child gets a coat, hat and gloves for winter and whatever other essentials they might need. I'd say we're spending a minimum of \$250 to \$300 on each child."

Our high school students who participate in the program make a difference, feel connected to the younger children, and enjoy knowing that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Please help support our program by talking to your teenager about the importance of giving back, and the positive spirit that donating to others promotes. Encourage them to offer to do chores for you, a relative, or a family friend in order to earn money to donate to this worthy cause.

Remember that giving maximizes your happiness and those around you!

Sincerely,

Claymont Christmas Committee