

Thank you note from a student that received a winter coat from Bright Futures:



Here are some details about our activities.

1. The Bright Futures Holden Distribution Hub is in the old football locker room. Thousands of donated items are organized there for quick distribution. This was one of Jo's main projects for the year. Students from Mrs. Stewart's class and Mrs. Watson's class helped with organizing the items along with some community volunteers. The school district provided shelving and a washer/dryer pair for the Hub.

2. Facebook Reach – we have 618 Likes. We receive fast results when we post a need on Facebook. We also use the Facebook page to alert our followers to upcoming school and community events, volunteer opportunities, and uplifting stories to build participation.

In January we had a family with 9 people living in a house and their washer and dryer quit and we were able to get both donated and meet them at the hub for them to pick up their NEW (used) washer and dryer. They were beside themselves and could not even speak from the appreciation.



3. Funding sources – a GALA in October, local donations, in-kind donations of food, school supplies, and clothing.

Local individuals and groups have donated \$17,280.00 and the GALA \$12,000 and last year's summer food program brought in over \$3,800.00 in monetary donations for the 2014-15 school year. The school provides the Hub and covers a variety of operating expenses like training, travel, and printing costs.

Gala Photo:



4. Community Partners included in activities – more than 30 – including the library, businesses, churches, and local organizations (VFW and Aux., HAMA, HOPE, Delta Kappa Gamma, Optimist Club, Knights of Columbus, etc.)

5. Our volunteers serve on leadership boards and councils, sort clothes, pick up and deliver items, tutor students, serve food, work on quilts for fundraisers, knit hats and scarves, collect clothing, collect school supplies, design promotional materials, and coordinate activities to help people get back on their feet.

6. Helped with Project Community Connect and the Johnson County Homeless Count

7. Spaghetti Dinner joint fundraiser with the Holden Senior Center after our successful summer food program in 2014

8. Harvesters training

9. Summer Food service training

10. Bright Futures USA training meetings in Joplin

11. Activities to help students and families included:

- * Assistance with prescriptions (mainly copays) and facilitation of other health needs/connections

- * Awareness activities, presence at football and basketball games to meet with the public to share resources and to recruit volunteers, table at the big back-to-school event, presence at the Street Fair and the Car Show

- * Help with sports uniforms

- * Cap and Gown recycle/donation drive

- * 1200 meals served to children during the 2014 summer food project, which was totally funded locally with donations and a partnership with the Holden Senior Center

- * Connection to sources that can help with utility bills

- * December and Spring Break food backpacks for high school and middle school students who needed food over break

- * Donations of specific things as needed – eyeglasses, school pictures, beds, bedding, blankets, wheelchair, and water
- * Bright Futures Holden coordinated help with Christmas gifts and other items for 19 families, including 45 children
- * Helped with the collection and distribution of over 5000 food items for several food drives throughout the district for 2014-15
- * Hygiene Kits for students who bathe at school or who needed extra supplies at home
- * Mini-food pantries for snacks during the school day for students who are hungry
- * Quilt project to assist with cheerleading fees
- * School supply distribution with donations from Project Crayon
- * Shoes and coats collected and distributed as needed by students
- * Nice dresses collected and distributed for school functions (dances, Father/Daughter event) with students having the opportunity to select and try on outfits in the Hub
- * Take-home book bags with reading books (many donated) for 1st graders in pilot project

Upcoming Projects and Volunteer Opportunities:

- * **Summer food program** Summer school is feeding students breakfast and lunch and after that Bright Futures will have a Kingsville and Latour location for summer food
- * **Jerusalem Project team**, June 11-13
- * **United in the Park** – To be announced.....

Thank you for your continuing support for Bright Futures Holden