

The Owens Interlink

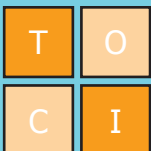
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Happy New Year!!

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TALK ABOUT SANTA HELPERS

By Diana Owens

I am not sure where we or our families would be this time of year if it were not for the wonderful people who step forward to assist us. Even with the current economic conditions for many, our list of supporters was not as large as in other years. But, this year, we were able to assist thirteen families ranging in all ages and sizes.

The criteria for assisting families is that the children must be residing in their home with their parents; parents must not have gotten assistance from other sources; and that they are truly in need. Seems pretty simple huh – well not necessarily – when you read the many requests for help, and have to turn some down some families based on the criteria we have followed for years, it can make you feel sad. But then, you realize those we are assisting have done or are doing what they needed to do and you move forward.

The primary request was not for toys, etc. this year, (even though all children ended up

with some) but the real need was clothing, bedding/blankets and the basic necessities such as towels, soaps, etc. When you read the stories of how far these families have come, and what they went through to be successful in regaining custody of their children, your heart wants to step in and make everything better for them. We congratulate these families for their hard work on regaining custody of their children. Anyone of us at anytime could find ourselves in a difficult situation like they have.

Those who so graciously stepped forward to adopt a family in need this year included: Sharon McDermott, Barbara Murray, Pam Stene-Hagge, Megan Stene, Bethany Lutheran Church DMV groups (2), Creative Learning Center, Don Smith with his annual turkey donations, and our own Mrs. Owens who personally assisted three families.

A special “thank you” to Me-

TALK ABOUT SANTA HELPERS cont'd.

gan Stene who not only got her own company (Creative Learning Center) involved with the drive, but also encouraged member groups from her church to participate. In addition, she spent several hours here at our office wrapping gifts that were purchased for other families. All your efforts Megan were so gratefully appreciated.

As one of our contributors said, “this was the best Christ-

mas I can remember.... being able to help someone in need. I have never done this before, but will certainly be doing it again year after year as long as possible”.

I think that is exactly what others feel, but perhaps have not put into words. On behalf of our families, our Board and the youth, we thank each and every one who participated.



Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow... Or not.

Ok...so we had enough snow for Santa to get where he needed to go, kids have had their fun making snowmen (which will probably last until at least April) and have used their new sleds.....and for those “dreaming of a white Christmas” - you got it..... but geez enough is enough!

Our families and children depend on us to be able to see each other, and when there is school closings due to the extreme weather, or when the temperatures reach sub-zero, it is our policy to assure not only the safety of children but our workers as well.

Seems we had just made up or rescheduled sessions from the first major snow, then the second one hit as families were trying to see each other for Christmas.

We are seeing many delayed Christmas exchanges here at the office this past week. Hopefully, everyone understands and can appreciate our policies during the winter time – SAFETY FIRST AND FOREMOST.

The national weather service said we have not had a winter like this since 1909 – and if that is the case, hopefully we won't have another like this for another 100 years.

To our families and referral sources, please know that we are doing the best we can to assure that all sessions are either on time or in the process of being made up. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact one of our supervisors in either office who can give you a quick update.



Out of the Mouths of Babies (or Teenagers)

We thought we would share with you comments from one of our successful graduates of the tracker/electronic monitoring program. His words (without misspelling/grammar errors) have been edited, but we are certain you will appreciate the meaning of his message. His worker was Robert Holmes.

Mr. Holmes:

"I am sorry for leaving my tracking unit at home...it won't happen again as I have remedied this. Also, I won't go off on you again either. I just need to be good for my family so my grandma won't be so worried about me.

"I know I have to do it by myself, just like what I am doing now. I love my grandma and

family. I don't want to loose that. I will do 'OK' once I am off the monitor and I will go to school, get a job and get my life right. I did something wrong and am taking responsibility for it. So thank you again for everything and for giving me another try". M_____

Here is what a community service sight had to say about M____: "M_____ assisted me in several small groups for a total of 5 hours. He helped keep the kids on task, listened to their prayers and gave them Bible passages to search for. The kids looked up to him and it was an encouragement to them that he was interested in changing his life". Ms. _____ ■

If You Didn't See...

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit our website, you may want to do it before we take down the holiday pictures and greetings from some of our staff and their families. Since this was a last minute event, many were unable to secure pictures in time, but for those who did, we thank you.

For all our customers and referral sources, please take a few minutes to log on: www.theowenscompanies.com. Just click onto Holiday Greetings. What a

group. Some you may know and others perhaps not – or at least not what you thought they looked like. We will start earlier next year so more can participate. It is always fun to see our employees and their families.



Congratulations Melissa!

Lincoln Supervisor, Melissa Batt and her husband, Josh, are the proud new parents of a baby boy, born December 17. Barrett Ballentine Batt weighed in at 8 lbs. and 1 oz.

Mom and baby are doing fine. Melissa is expecting to be out for ten weeks of leave before making her return.

Filling in while Melissa is on leave is our own, very competent, Emily Diehl. Melissa will only

just return from her leave and it will be April's turn. Thanks Emily for filling in for Melissa (and also then for April, when the time comes).

Those are just a couple new or pending newcomers to the Owens team. We have several employees who are also expecting new members to their families. As the blessed events happen, we will certainly let you know.



10 Best/Worst Jobs of 2010

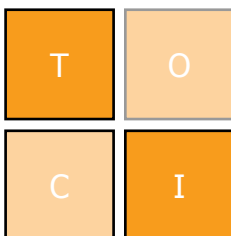
Here are the 10 best jobs of 2010 as rated by CareerCast.com:

1. Actuary
2. Software Engineer
3. Computer Systems Analyst
4. Biologist
5. Historian
6. Mathematician
7. Paralegal Assistant
8. Statistician
9. Accountant
10. Dental Hygienist



Here are the 10 worst jobs according to the report:

1. Roustabout
2. Lumberjack
3. Ironworker
4. Dairy Farmer
5. Welder
6. Garbage Collector
7. Taxi Driver
8. Construction Worker
9. Meter Reader
10. Mail Carrier



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