

Holiday Heroes

SAEN, Pioneers, SEND & NexGEN Team Up to Brighten Christmas with Toy Drive

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Delanie Passer, a SaskTel CST, helped to drop off toys in Saskatoon.

Christmas is a time for giving and, while the season may not be all about packages and presents, there is a special joy in bringing a smile to a child's face.

That's why members of SaskTel's employee-based networks teamed up to brighten the season for Saskatchewan children whose Christmas may not be so bright this year.

Throughout November, new or gently used toys and school items were collected at SaskTel's Regina and Saskatoon offices for children attending local community schools. After the collection deadline passed on 27 Nov 2018, SAEN, NextGEN, SEND and Pioneer volunteers helped to sort the items to get them ready for distribution to students.

The toys were dropped off at four local community schools early in December: Thomson and Rosemont elementary schools in Regina, and Princess Alexandra and St. Michael's in Saskatoon.

"This year's toy drive for children in need is just one example of how SaskTel employees support local communities," said Jennifer McLeod, Human Resources Manager - Organizational Development. "We are thrilled to see all the smiles on the faces of students who received toys, and this is all possible because of SaskTel volunteers and employee donations!"

All employees who contributed to this year's toy drive can feel good that they have helped to make Christmas a little more special for children in our cities.

At Thomson Community School, toys gifted by SaskTel employees were given to the school's Toy Store which allows families to purchase toys at a fraction of the retail cost. Everything is

priced between 5 cents and 5 dollars and all proceeds from sales go towards classroom trips, math and literacy resources, or other special events for students.

“For the past couple years, SaskTel employees have collected toys for Thomson Community School's Toy Store and it is greatly appreciated by our staff and students,” said Angel Hayden, Thomson School's Community Coordinator. “The majority of our students come from low income families and if it wasn't for your employees collecting toys for us, many of our students would not receive a gift or be able to buy something for their families. Your donations make their Christmas a little more special.”

At St. Michael's, teachers and staff know there are some students in the school community who are faced with the possibility of having Christmas without a single gift. The toys provided by SaskTel employees allow them to share the spirit of the season with those students who need it the most.

“We are aware of the financial status of most of our families, but just as can happen with any family in any part of Saskatoon, neither we nor a family can control when a job might be lost, or a business might be shut down,” explained Principal Mike Thorson. “Thank you for your support, which in turn allows us to directly and immediately support our children, and our families.”

Along with the successful toy drive, volunteers collected a number of new and good used condition winter outerwear during their separate clothing drive. Items collected included children's scarves, mittens, jackets, ski pants, as well as winter boots.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and donated items! It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas indeed!