

Educational Gifts for Winter

Kenton Elementary School

Aurora, CO



Kenton Elementary School has a population of 538 students with 95 percent offered free or reduced lunch. School staff wanted to provide an educational gift for students. Secore, Kenton’s community church, “adopted” 180 families to help the school meet their goal. This meant that children under 18 years of age would all receive a gift. In addition, Little Flower, a Catholic charity, helped with this goal by donating gift boxes to 50 students.

Each teacher nominated children who would benefit the most from this program. The school’s family liaison helped families by completing the form with them, either in person or over the phone. The liaison then transferred this information to Secore via web submission. Little Flower requested permission letters for each individual student provided by the school’s family liaison. Additionally, permission slips were requested so that pictures could be taken of students receiving their gifts.



Secore supported the effort by purchasing educational gifts for children ages 13 and under. Students who were 14 to 18 received a gift card of their favorite place. In addition, Little Flower helped by providing 50 gift boxes with school supplies, fun fact books, hygiene supplies, and a gift card to McDonalds. Secore and Little Flower brought so many gifts that it took 19 total volunteers to unload it all from a large trailer.

Volunteers continued their incredible work by calling parents and coordinating the gift pickup. Some of the children who walk home after school had an adult volunteer walk them home. Some children opened their gifts as soon as they received them, with their parents’ permission.



The most difficult challenge Kenton staff experienced was trying to fit all the gifts in the family liaison’s small office. The excitement quickly turned to worry. The trailer arrived near the end of the school day, and students who were in the office waiting to be picked up wanted to see what was inside the bags. Staff had to keep a close eye to make sure that students did not open the gifts awaiting distribution.

Despite these minor challenges, the project was a huge success! The students were extremely happy with their gifts. One parent commented, “My child is going to be happy to receive a gift from his school. Another parent added, “This winter break my child will continue to learn at home” due to the educational nature of the gift.