

Holiday Project continues to bring seasonal cheer to local youth

This past fall, community members and DHS staff once again banded together for the DHS Holiday Project, creating a festive holiday season for youth served by the Office of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF).

The Holiday Project served more than 4,000 children this year, with 2,514 directly sponsored by individuals and corporations such as UPMC, PNC Bank, Pittsburgh Airport Authority, and Pietragallo, to name a few. For youth not directly sponsored, DHS staff volunteers sorted and thoughtfully handpicked gifts such as sporting equipment, toys, gift cards, arts and crafts supplies, and books at the Holiday Project Workshop. Each item in the workshop was generously donated by individuals and organizations, including Allegheny County Labor Council, Three Rivers Leather Club, Keystone Wrestling Alliance and the Young Lawyers Division of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

“We are so thankful to our sponsors and donors for the gifts, as well as all of the staff and volunteers responsible for the ‘behind-the-scenes magic,’ such as sorting, selecting, transporting, and delivering gifts,” said Ondréa Burton, events and donations manager in the Office of Community Relations (OCR). “None of this would be possible without the kindness and generosity of our community members and staff.”