

Students hold food drive



Elementary students at Irving's StoneGate Christian Academy learned to help those who are less fortunate during their

recent food drive. Students collected nearly 1,500 pounds of food and raised \$170 which was donated to Irving Cares for their annual

Holiday Food Drive. Prior to delivering the food, students enjoyed making structures utilizing cans which were collected.

Four Seasons managers make season bright for special needs children

Twenty three Four Seasons Resorts and Hotels managers recently made cookie and t-shirt decorating, jumping in a bounce house and playing with toy trains the "learning plan" for children at Our Children's House at Baylor in Irving (OCHBI).

The managers were meeting for a leadership training retreat at the Four Seasons Resort and Club in Las Colinas. They voted before arriving in Irving for the retreat to complete a service project and selected OCHBI to be the beneficiary of their plans.

Catherine Ross, RN, a nurse

who manages the childcare programs at the children's center worked with the group to plan the party.

"In addition to the party, they asked what would be our major wish and I told them to have our playground resurfaced," Ross said, "and they generously donated over \$5600 toward playground resurfacing."

The Four Seasons representatives brought toys for each of the more than 30 children in OCHBI's childcare program, which is tailored for special needs children. Children at the center have vary-

ing diagnoses, including cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome and other conditions which affect the ability to grow, thrive, learn and communicate.

"When you walked into the center and saw how excited and happy the children were, it was hard not to have tears in your eyes," said Anne Morton, who directs services at several of Baylor's Our Children's Houses throughout North Texas. The Four Seasons managers donated a bounce house and a large table with a wooden train layout and trains. "The gift that touched me the most was a beautiful fish tank that they installed at the floor level in our infant and toddler childcare room. It's perfectly at their eye level. One toddler was so excited that he kissed the fish tank every time he walked by it."

Angela Enright, public relations director for the Four Seasons Resort and Club, helped the visiting managers by suggesting OCHBI as a possible site for their service project. Enright is a previous chairwoman and 12-year member of the Irving Healthcare Foundation Board of Directors, which raises funds for OCHBI and several other healthcare charities in Irving.

"Four Seasons employees make exceeding people's expectations a daily occurrence, but it is so gratifying when you can achieve that outcome for children and families for whom most days can be filled with the challenges of simply living. I love the fact that OCHBI now has 23 'ambassadors' working in Four Seasons properties around the world," Enright said.

The managers also served lunch to the OCHBI staff and parents who attended the event.

"It is one of the very best days in the history of our center. I cannot thank the Four Seasons company and its splendid leadership team enough," Ross said.

Aviation Career Expo



More than 40 students from Lamar Middle School were among the 3,300 area students who attended the Aviation & Transportation Career Expo at DFW International Airport.

Icy weather can't stop meal deliveries

Icy weather was no match for the dedication of the Visiting Nurse Association's (VNA) volunteers and staff getting Meals on Wheels delivered Christmas morning. Despite sub-freezing temperatures and patches of snow, hundreds turned out Dec. 25 at VNA's headquarters, the Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Center, to ensure that the meals reached more than 3,600 homes in Dallas County.

Gift bags were included with a special Christmas dinner on the

300 delivery routes to homebound elderly, sick, and disabled individuals.

The Christmas spirit was clearly evident that morning, as was the gratitude of thousands of elderly who benefited from such generosity.

Information about volunteering to deliver Meals on Wheels can be obtained by contacting Betsy Cox, Director of Volunteers at 214-689-2210 or coxbe@vnatexas.org.



VNA volunteers and staff braved icy weather to get 3,600 Meals on Wheels and gift bags delivered Christmas morning.

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