



Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCSO Spreads Holiday Cheer from the Detention Center to the Community

(CHARLOTTE, NC) During this season, especially this year, we could all use something to make our days a little brighter. MCSO engaged in several holiday projects from collecting cards for residents to delivering meals and toys to families.

Christmas Card Project:

MCSO employees collaborated to help make the season brighter because of the isolation that residents feel during the holidays while incarcerated. Employees shared their generosity with residents by allowing them the opportunity to send holiday greetings to their families.

Throughout the month of December, Christmas and holiday cards were requested by residents and collected from staff and other members of the community. The response was overwhelming, “every day checking the requests, it was obvious that a small project for us made a huge difference to them,” said MCSO Fiscal Support Supervisor Belinda Pettit. “One request from a resident read: I would like to request the 5 holiday Christmas cards that are available to inmates free of charge. We appreciate your kindness during this time of season. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours.”

Thanks to the MCSO staff, 278 residents received 3 cards with stamped envelopes for a total of 834 Christmas cards. Another 90 cards were sent to 45 juvenile residents with stamped envelopes.

Community Engagement Toy and Coat Drive:

The Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Office Community Engagement Team hosted several coat and toy drives during the months of November and December. During this process, we collected over 250 coats for men, women, and children (all donated by MCSO staff and Goodwill). Additionally, MCSO Community Engagement partnered with Radio One, Albemarle Road Walmart, CMPD and MCSO staff to host two separate toy drives in December. The generous donations and support received from our partners community members was overwhelming. On December 17th through the 21st, our community

engagement team and field deputies delivered toys and coats to over 450 kids throughout Mecklenburg County. A local Food Lion store donated over 500 prepackaged nonperishable meals for us to give to these deserving families. Our office received names of children who live throughout Mecklenburg County, attend CMS schools and local recreational centers that requested assistance. Our partnership with Radio One, Albemarle Road Walmart, CMPD, Food Lion and MCSO employees allowed us to make the holiday season brighter for these families.

MCSO's Community Engagement Team also made a special delivery to the Hemby Children's Hospital.

Resident Toy Delivery:

MCSO Community Engagement Team delivered toys to children of female program residents housed at the Mecklenburg County Detention Center Central. Our staff shared stories of how grateful and overjoyed the kids were once they received the gifts. Fourteen children ages 1-11 all received gifts from the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Garry McFadden goes "Ham" for the Holidays:

Sheriff McFadden delivered more than a dozen hams and toys to New Outreach Christian Center for their upcoming Christmas Meal. The Sheriff will also volunteer his time to help serve families in the community during the event on Christmas morning.

Please see photos attached. Please courtesy: MCSO