

## SaskEnergy Warms Hearts with Charity

Every year, the Christmas tree in the lobby of SaskEnergy Place serves as a comforting reminder that the season of cheer is upon us. This year, you may have noticed that the tree was out of the ordinary; in fact, it was being consistently “undecorated” each day. This unique display was designed to benefit a group of children in need, thanks to some very creative staff in Human Resources.



*The HR pick up and delivery crew pose in front of the charity tree*

The goal of the tree “undecorating” fundraiser was to outfit children in Douglas Park School’s English as a Second Language program (ESL) with proper winter garments to help them weather the cold. The Grades 1 to 8 students benefiting from the donations are newcomers to Canada, hailing from Thailand, Kosovo, Colombia, Israel, Libya, Ukraine, Albania, Ethiopia, South Korea and Iran, where climates are quite unlike our own. A little help to stay warm this winter was just what these children needed!

SaskEnergy/TransGas employees were quick to accept the challenge, digging in their own pockets to raise the needed funds in only seven days. To do so, each generous employee took a paper ornament off the tree, wrote down their personal donation on the back, and then placed the donation in a bucket beside the tree.

Over the course of the week, the colourful ornamental paper mittens, scarves, toques, winter coats, and boots that once adorned the tree disappeared, one at a time. Overall, SaskEnergy raised \$1,670, which covered the cost of boots for nearly half of the children, jackets for 33 children and mittens and toques for 46 children. This success would not have been possible without the generosity of Sears, which offered a discount of 55% on jackets and boots, as well as free mittens and toques for every child. As well, the initiative benefited from a SaskEnergy Community Action Grant.

HR employees delivered the warm clothing in person and brought along craft supplies and snacks for a fun-filled afternoon. They organized five separate activity stations with winter themes, including a “warm up for winter” station, where kids were fitted for winter clothing. There was a mirror on hand for the children to see themselves in their new garments. “The look of pride on their faces made it the best holiday experience some of us have ever had. A truly heartwarming experience,” says Bea Hameluck, Sr. Administrative Coordinator - Human Resources.

To show their gratitude the children sang an adaptation of the song “Saskatchewan” for the volunteers, which they had learned specially for the occasion. Afterwards the group from HR treated them to cookies and juice.



*The children presented the HR volunteers with a thank you card, including their names and country or origin.*

Special thanks go to Gord Maier and Diane Ross of Sears, Principal Dixie Nelson and teachers Amy Schultz and Debbie Palmquist of Douglas Park School, Courtney Garrett and Terin Duell of HR for organizing the activities for the afternoon, and to all those who donated to make this a true Christmas in terms of giving! Know that your efforts are helping a wonderful group of kids stay warm this winter and that your generosity is greatly appreciated.