



Your Dealer for Life.



CARROLL TIMES HERALD
(19500) 05-16-25 14B 2N
5/16/2025
NEW OPPORTUNITIES
PO BOX 427
CARROLL IA 51401-0427
RECEIVED
DEC 13 2024
BY: *AS*
Name: *Paula*



CARROLL TIMES HERALD

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024

CARROLLTIMESHERALD.COM

\$1.50

COMMUNITY

Kids shopping spree delivers holiday cheer

By LARRY DEVINE
ldevine@iowainformation.com

The annual kids' Christmas spree hosted Saturday morning, Dec. 7, at Bomgaars store produced a lot of rewards.

For the kids it was the excitement of shopping for gifts for mom and dad, brothers and sisters — maybe even something for themselves.

For the volunteers who assisted with the event it was seeing the kids' selflessness and the smiles.

Carroll's Lions and Rotary clubs, Pella Corp. and Bomgaars combined efforts to host 63 children from infants to 14-year-olds from 16 local families served by New Opportunities Family Development Center in Carroll. The spree provided a \$50 shopping card for each child. Lions and Rotary each donated \$300 for the spree, and Pella employees gave more than \$2,700. Bomgaars stretched the kids' budgets by giving them 20% off on the purchases, totaling \$660 savings.

Volunteers from Lions, Rotary and Pella assisted with the event, accompanying families through the store to find gifts, help keep track of budgets, and wrapping the presents afterward. Afterward the kids visited with Santa and received a gift.

Rotary has supported the shopping sprees more than 30 years, and Rotary Foundation Director Bob Fasbender says, "It's been fun. It's a good service project for us. It kind of gets better every year."

Fasbender accompanied a mom and three of her daughters on their shopping, while Fasbender's cousin Karen Moulder accompanied the mom's other three daughters. Fasbender says the girls all bought gifts for each other, such as art materials, shoes, jacket, toys.

Lions Secretary Ron Morlok says, "I had a young mother of four, and she headed straight to the coat rack to get coats for the two older boys. I think the younger two girls might have gotten a doll or other toy along with clothes. But it was gratifying to see their priorities."

He notes, "Two families were so poor that they had no transportation to get to the event, so a volunteer at New Opportunities arranged to bring them."



PHOTO BY STEVE FISHER

A little help with shopping for Christmas
Zelda Hepkenbert of Coon Rapids tells Santa what she wants for Christmas as she participates in the New Opportunities Christmas Shopping Spree on Saturday morning at Bomgaars. Zelda was shopping with her family including her mom, Elizabeth Hepkenbert. Families arrived as early as 6:45 to begin shopping.

He adds, "It's nice to do something for the needy in the community, and this event allows a person to get involved one-on-one — better than just making a monetary donation as we often do as Lions Club."

Pella Plant Manager Danielle Leonard notes that Pella employees held a special fundraising for the event.

"Our team really showed through, and they raised over \$2,700 to support this program," Leonard says. "That's the most we've done at the Carroll site. It shows the strength of our team, and I couldn't be prouder of our team and what they did to contribute."

"Our participants walked around with families helping them shop and getting the presents wrapped."

She continues, "At Pella our goal is not only to provide great jobs, but to give back to the

communities we live and work in. This one (the shopping spree) is a direct correlation to that foundational principle. The team raised the money, and we were able to use it for the local community. It's really a testament to the team, and it's really an amazing cause. We're just super lucky we get to be part of it."

As for her own participation, Leonard says, "My strength is wrapping, so I helped man the wrapping station. We saw a wide variety of things, whether it be toys for their brothers and sisters, we saw blankets and stocking hats and different things for maybe their mom or their dad. It was a wide variety. And it certainly challenged us as we were trying to think of different ways to wrap some of these presents, but it was a lot of fun."

Some of the kids even helped with the wrapping.

"They were excited even if it was just putting a piece of tape on the present or putting the name tag on the present for who they were going to give it to," Leonard says. "Just seeing their faces light up truly makes that morning worth it."

New Opportunities Family Development Center Coordinator Val Holdsworth notes, "The three organizations (Lions, Rotary and Pella) were kept busy shopping with the families and then making sure all their gifts got wrapped. The whole event takes about an hour. Any leftover gift card money, the volunteers went shopping for additional toys for the for the (New Opportunities) toy distribution on Friday (today)."

This year New Opportunities had requests for gifts for more than 350 children.

SHOPPING, PAGE 10

NEW OPPORTUNITIES CHRISTMAS SHOPPING



PHOTO BY STEVE FISHER

Wrapping up. Volunteers from Pella Corporation, the Carroll Lions Club, and the Carroll Rotary Club wrap presents for families, who were shopping at the New Opportunities Christmas Shopping Spree Saturday morning at Bomgaars. The program, which is sponsored by Pella Corporation employees, the Lions Club and Rotary Club provide Christmas gift to 76 children from 19 families. Volunteers arrived early to assist families with shopping, wrapped presents and provided transportation to and from the store.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pella Corp. Carroll plant employees who volunteered with the kids' shopping spree at Bomgaars on Saturday morning, Dec. 7, also got a chance to visit with Santa at the event. Pictured are (front, from left) Sonia Dennler; Santa; Kynlee Kozicki, daughter of employee Adam Kozicki; and Danielle Leonard; (back, from left) Jesse Rudolph; Madelyn Bjork; George Plaza; CJ Brown; Adam Kozicki; Ben Caldwell; and Lynn McGuire.



PHOTO BY STEVE FISHER

Lions club members take a break from the New Opportunities Christmas Shopping Spree with families to sit with Santa. From left are Ron Morlok, Santa and Danny Torgerson. Volunteers from the Carroll Lions Club, the Carroll Rotary Club and Pella Corporation arrived at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday at Bomgaars to families shop for Christmas presents. Volunteers helped families shop, wrapped presents and provided transportation to and from the store.



PHOTO BY STEVE FISHER

Rotary Foundation Chairman, Bob Fasbender awaits getting Christmas presents wrapped Saturday morning at the New Opportunities Christmas Shopping Spree at Bomgaars. Fasbender is one of several volunteers from the Carroll Rotary Club, the Carroll Lions Club and Pella Corporation, who helped 76 children shop for Christmas presents. The New Opportunities Christmas Shopping Spree enables area children to shop for Christmas presents for their siblings. Fasbender and the Carroll Rotary Club have been involved with the program for 34 years.



PHOTO BY STEVE FISHER

Rotary club members take a break from the New Opportunities Christmas Shopping Spree with families to sit with Santa. From left are Matt Harrison, Phil Phillips, Santa, Rotary Foundation Chairman, Bob Fasbender and Aaron Juergens. Volunteers from the Carroll Rotary Club, the Carroll Lions Club and Pella Corporation arrived at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday at Bomgaars to help 76 children shop for Christmas presents. The program enables area children to shop for Christmas presents for their siblings.