

KMMS students reach out to children all over the world with Operation Christmas Child

The Titan Team and Mrs. Shipley's eighth grade AIG Language Arts class at Kings Mountain Middle School recently volunteered at the Operation Christmas Child warehouse in Charlotte.

Nearly 150 volunteers, including students, teachers, parents and others from the community helped pack shoeboxes at the warehouse on Monday, Dec. 13. The boxes were set to be shipped to children all over the world for Christmas. For many who volunteered, it was a great experience.

Three students shared their experiences with The Herald.

COLLIN FOSTER – "When I found out we were going to Operation Christmas Child, I was really excited. I couldn't wait to go. I looked forward to it for like three weeks. When we got there, we went into an area and learned what to look for. After that, we were placed in groups of six and went to an area with tons of boxes. From there, we did different jobs. One person takes money out, another looks for inappropriate items and removes them, and the last person tapes the box and put it in a larger box. We did this for about four hours. It was a lot of work, but it was really fun. The boxes that we packed that day were to be sent to kids in Ukraine and Madagascar. After we were finished, I felt really good. I am glad I got the chance to experience that."

MACKENZIE SMITH – "Orphaned. Starved. Deserted. Disarrayed. Less Fortunate. If you were at Operation Christmas Child you knew the meaning of this. The children these boxes were going to were all of these things and some more."

"Have you ever sat and actually thought about how lucky you are to have a family that loves and cares for you? How about how lucky we are that we get Christmas presents every year? These children don't get presents every year, they don't even get a present. The boxes were going to be shipped out to the countries where these children lived. My job was to inspect what was in the boxes and take out inappropriate items. I was the last person to see what was inside the boxes before the children received them. This was an experience I will NEVER forget!"

LAUREN FERRELL – "I loved Operation Christmas Child. It was amazing for me because I realized that I would be the last one touching that box before it reached some child in need. Some kids, this was the only present that they would get this Christmas. It really made me feel great about myself knowing that I was helping little kids all around the world that are in need or their home was destroyed and they have nothing that they can call their own. But those boxes that we packed and shipped out, that is one thing that they can call their own."

The Titan Team at KMMS includes eighth grade students in Chris Bennett's Math and Science classes and Sherrie Norris' Language Arts and Social Studies classes.

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse. The mission of OCC is: "to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ."



KMMS students, parents, teachers and others from the community recently volunteered at the Operation Christmas Child warehouse in Charlotte, packing shoeboxes for children around the world.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Emily Dickinson once wrote, "They might not need me; but they might. I'll let my head be just in sight; A smile as small as mine might be, Precisely their necessity."

Volunteering at the Operation Christmas Child warehouse in Charlotte this December, wasn't the first or only time students from the Titan team and Kings Mountain Middle have made a difference this year. Their smiles are sure to have brightened many lives, even if in the smallest of ways.

They helped out at Murphey's 16th Annual Toy Run on Nov. 20th. They visited

the Hospice House taking cookies and poinsettias for Christmas. They helped plant flowers and tend gardens around the city with committee members of Keep Kings Mountain Beautiful.

And each Monday they visit the residents at Summit Place. They have even decorated a Christmas tree there for Summit Place's parade of trees.

KMMS Teachers Mr. Chris Bennett, Ms. Sherrie Norris, Mrs. Pat Regan, Mrs. Shipley and others have worked with the students in this journey to help others.



Sierra Gill volunteers at the OCC warehouse.



Blakely Philbeck packs shoeboxes into larger boxes for shipment.



Noah Coleman packs a shoebox at the Operation Christmas Child warehouse.



Jacob Sneed carries a large box packed with shoeboxes.



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