



Lincoln High School's Annual Community Candles Program Spreads Holiday Cheer

As many look forward to celebrating the festive holiday season with family and friends, there are some who may not share that same excitement. Toys for Tots is a wonderful program that many in our community donate towards to support families facing difficult times to ensure they can celebrate the holiday season as well. However, what many may not know is that once a child is 14, they are too old to receive a gift. To help overcome the stress of families with older children, Lincoln created a program to help.

Sixteen years ago, "Community Candles" was created. This program provides an opportunity for faculty and students to support Lincoln families who are experiencing financial hardship and spread some holiday cheer. Historically the funds collected have been used to purchase specific gifts for students. Throughout the years, Community Candles has raised over \$33,000.00!

In recent years, instead of purchasing specific gifts, the process has been simplified by giving gift cards to students so that they can choose where they want to use the funds. They may decide to put the dollars toward food, clothing, gas, or a specific gift they have in mind.

Last year, 50 students signed up to participate in Community Candles. This year there are 105 students who either signed up or were referred for the Community Candles program.

Lincoln's student clubs, sports teams, faculty, and students again donated toward this year's program. Faculty, teams, and clubs who donated have their names written on a paper candle which are proudly displayed on Lincoln's front office windows for everyone to see. The giving spirit spread past the walls of Lincoln this year as staff members from the District Office donated as well.

A second hour donation competition was held for four days where students, if they wanted to, had the opportunity to donate towards the program. The class with the most donations won a donut party. Mr. Bertagnoli's second hour class collected a whopping \$110.00! Mr. Larsen's second hour class came in 2nd place with an amazing \$88.00 raised.

During lunch hours, Lincoln's Cool2BKind group sold candy canes with all proceeds going to Community Candles.

Lincoln's "Community Candles" program continues to spread holiday cheer to those in our school who may be in a difficult situation. The spirit of giving from so many at Lincoln, and around the school district, is amazing. We are so pleased that "Community Candles" will be able to provide 105 students with some joy this holiday season ~ thank you to all who donated!

