

Spring-Ford Rotary, InterAct club, Education Association wrap 600 gifts for needy families in the school district

Published: Friday, December 17, 2010 By LEANN PETTIT lpettit@phoenixvillenews.com



Staff Photo by Leann Pettit Spring-Ford InterAct club members, teachers and Spring-Ford Rotary members wrapped gifts for needy families in the district.

ROYERSFORD – The Spring-Ford High School InterAct Club, in cooperation with the Spring-Ford Rotary and Spring-Ford Education Association, wrapped gifts for needy families within the district during a special holiday luncheon at the 9th Grade Center. The program has been going on at the high school for eight years and has been growing every year. This year, it included 78 families, totaling 206 children from the Spring-Ford School District. Ginny Provost, Elementary Counselor and one of the counselors who helps coordinate the event within the school district, explained that the counselors throughout the schools identify families in need for help for the holidays. They look for families that can't provide presents for their children for Christmas.

The Teachers' Association and Spring-Ford Rotary have partnered to help make this possible for the families. The Teachers' Association purchases the gifts and the Rotary purchases the clothing. To help raise money to purchase the gifts, each school building held a blue jeans day for the teachers. The InterAct Club, a junior Rotary Club, also donated \$1,000 towards purchasing gifts. Melanie Bowen and Julie Quinby, co-advisors for the InterAct Club, said to raise money the club held a t-shirt sale, walkathons and they also receive donations from the community, among other fundraisers. Bowen continued that the InterAct Club is a group of more than 300 student volunteers, and the largest club at the high school. They volunteer at the elementary schools, Limerick and Upper Providence Community Days, and wherever they are needed. They also hold a clothing drive for a local shelter each year and recently held a food drive for Philabundance where they collected thousands of pounds of food. Dr. Marsha Hurda, Superintendent of Schools, said, "I think this opportunity, to wrap gifts, gives [the students] ... a real world benefit."

Dave Schreiber, Rotary Club President, said they wrapped over 600 gifts, up from 400 gifts during last year's program. They provided between \$14,000 and \$15,000 in gifts, gift cards and grocery cards for the 78 families that are involved in the program this year.