



## Tis the Season!



During the holidays, many of us look for ways to help put a smile on a child's face. A number of our Promise Council schools find ways to support students during the season. Below are a few schools the Promise Council supports, who would use our help.

### Unit 5 Holiday Sign Up

A number of students in the Unit 5 school district could use a pick me up this holiday season. You can see the list of students and their "wish" in the SignUp Genius link [here](#). Please review the available slots and click on the button to sign up. Then wrap your gift and tag it according to the name on the list. Please drop off the gifts at Northpoint Elementary School on December 9 between 3-6 pm. Volunteers will deliver to the families on Saturday morning. If you are interested in helping with deliveries, please indicate that in the comment section.

### Stevenson Elementary Promise Council Holiday Giving

We are asking Donors to spend between \$30-\$50 on gifts (toys, games, dolls) for each child. In addition most families have indicated that they are in need of clothes and shoes so we are asking that an additional \$30-\$50 dollars be spent on those needs as well. You can see the SignUp Genius link [here](#).

Gifts are requested to be unwrapped and returned to Stevenson Elementary by the end of day on December 12th, as well as labeled.

**Cedar Ridge** Each year, we work hard to support our students and families during this holiday season. With the help of APC, Baby Fold and Cedar Ridge PC, we are creating food boxes to give to our families in need.

We will need volunteers to help set-up the Food Pantry at Apostolic Pentecostal Church

(APC) Community Center on Saturday, December 17. Teenagers are welcome to help out as well. If you are interested in helping, please click on the Sign-up Genius link [here](#).

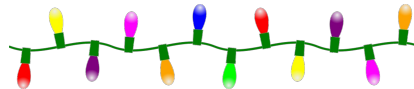
### **Fox Creek Elementary**

Fox Creek Elementary is in dire need of some warmer clothing, socks and belts now that the weather has turned so cold. Here is a [SignUp Genius](#) link with shout out list of items along with an Amazon wish list ([click here](#)). Please consider donating these items to restock our clothing bins that have been cleared out very quickly already this year. You may have the Amazon items delivered directly to the school.

## **Your Donation Can Make A Larger Impact**

We appreciate all the donations we receive throughout the year. Many employers offer to match their employee and/or retiree donations. Be sure to check with your employer to see if your donation qualifies and when you need to request the match. Companies that have matched for Promise Council include State Farm, Country Financial, and Microsoft.

If you are a State Farm retiree, please note State Farm is discontinuing retiree eligibility for the State Farm Companies Foundation Programs, including the Matching Gift, Good Neighbor Grant<sup>®</sup> team & individual programs, effective Jan. 1, 2023. They will continue to accept requests for donations and volunteer hours completed in 2022 through January 31, 2023. Donations and volunteer hours completed by retirees in 2023 or later will not be eligible.



## **Message From The Board**

Today is the first day of December! As we anticipate all we might accomplish before Father Time puts 2022 in the rearview mirror, the board also wanted to take a moment to review the work it has done in support of its 23 schools this calendar year. Since January 1, 2022, the board and its many committee volunteers are proud to share its accomplishments.

1. Through its work with Jaclyn Byers, Executive on Loan from State Farm, the board:
  - a. updated its mission, vision and logo
  - b. completed its first strategic planning exercise, establishing goals and key performance indicators for the coming year
  - c. Reorganized and revitalized its committee structure
2. Working closely with our school leadership teams and community partners, we:
  - a. Developed the Purple Redbirds Tutoring Program at BHS
  - b. Supported several new matches through the Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Program
  - c. Conducted 14 very successful 100 Caring Adults events to welcome students back to school
  - d. Provided financial support to the BHS Student Activism Fund
3. Our committees were hard at work:
  - a. Writing grants, requesting
    - i. \$20,000 from the John M Scott Foundation to support student health care

needs. News of our success will come in January, 2023.

ii. \$10,000 for a Women To Women Grant to support mentoring and tutoring programs. Note: We have been notified that we are a finalist for this grant, and will learn of our success in January, 2023.

b. Recruiting new board members ; Erin Duncan joined us in August, 2022, and we are currently talking two additional potential members – stay tuned for more news!

c. Raising funds - Over \$16,000 in individual and corporate donations were either directly from or inspired by board members

d. Discussing and developing new web-based content to keep our website relevant and useful to our schools, community partners, and the public

4. Joining the Chamber of Commerce, exponentially increasing our potential new contacts for volunteerism and funds

5. Attending Nonprofit Fairs sponsored by State Farm and the Chamber of Commerce

The Promise Council Board of Directors considers it an honor to do this work on behalf of our schools and the children who attend them. We remain committed to *helping schools help kids* for the remainder of this year and in the new year to come.

Volunteer!

## Promise Council

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