

2021 Christmas Angels project

This year, our Christmas Angels project provided practical gifts for 95 families and 245 children. We partner with the business community and the community at large. Rotary volunteers collected information from parents in need and created Angels tags to put on trees in high traffic businesses such as bank, pharmacies and restaurants where the community could pick an angel and purchase the requested gifts. They then returned the wrapped gifts to the tree, where they were collected, organized and then distributed to the families.

There was a total of 12 Rotarian volunteers and 10 non-Rotarian volunteers that contributed a total of approximately 340 hours. This includes only the direct activities that were tracked, not the countless hours of the businesses and the “Angels” who shopped and wrapped those 490 presents.

On the day we picked up the gifts from the tree locations, 12 volunteers made multiple trips to the tree locations to pick up gifts and deliver them to the distribution site. There, they were organized into family groups. For the first time, there were no angels left on the trees. We believe this was due to several things. First, we expanded the number of locations and second, our local Elks Club was given a large cash donation with the intent that no angels be left on the trees. Finally, there was unexpected coordination from the businesses moving angels from one business to another to be sure they received the best coverage.

We inventory to be sure all of the angels are returned. There are always a few that are picked up but not returned. This year that was about 40 angels that volunteers had to shop for and wrap. This speaks to the cost.

A local foodie group provided cookies for the volunteers on the pickup day and then two of the group members were so impressed with the project that they showed up to help on distribution day, where they hauled huge bags filled with gifts through the rain to put them in the cars. Their reward was the excitement of the parents and children. Cries of delight could be heard inside the building.