



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU  
FOR MAYHEW CBC'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS  
TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FAMILIES

Happy New Year! I hope that this note finds you in good health and good spirits, and that all of you had an enjoyable holiday season. I was so pleased to get an e-mail from Ted before Christmas, letting me know that you were able to return to meeting with one another, and absolutely delighted to learn that you wanted to provide some holiday support for families in the Lincoln Village and Countryside neighborhoods again this year. Your contact and generosity could not have come at a better time, and I am pleased to share information about the impact your kindness had on two Abraham Lincoln Elementary School families.

As you may already know, we strive to ensure that your donation provides much-needed support for families experiencing difficult life circumstances. Over the years, your generosity has supported families who had recently lost loved ones, that had lost most of their possessions to fire, to those who lost their jobs during the Great Recession, to a Middle Eastern family separated by arcane immigration laws, as well as to provide some holiday cheer to children whose parents were incarcerated or otherwise unavailable to them, and who were being raised by extended family.

Each year, your kindness has been a beacon of hope and humanity for the families whose lives you've touched, and this year is no exception. In consultation with school staff, the decision was made to focus your donation on two families, one, a single dad with two children, and the other, a couple with four children. While both families are currently sheltered, each has experienced homelessness in the past 18 months, due to the impact of the Pandemic. The parents in both families are working multiple jobs in an effort to get back on their feet, and your donation could not have come at a better time. Both families requested a gift card from Walmart, not knowing how much they would be receiving. When the \$350 cards were delivered, the tears were difficult to hold back, as they talked about the difficulties each of them was experiencing trying to provide basic needs for their families, let alone some Christmas gifts.

Ladies and gentlemen, your generosity not only allowed these parents to give their children some gifts, it also put food on their tables. Your gift freed up money that could then be used to put gas in their vehicles so they could get back and forth between home and work. Your generosity made a *significant* difference in the lives and well-being of these two families. An interesting side note: when I delivered the gift card to one of the families, I realized I was at the home of a family that your donation had helped several years ago; they had opened their doors to this family as they worked to get back on their feet. It was as though things had come full circle, a true pay it forward kind of moment!

My deepest thanks to all of you for support of families in need in our community, and for allowing me to play a small role in delivering that support; it is a great honor indeed. I wish you all health and happiness in 2022, and hope that the blessings you have bestowed upon others return to you tenfold.



Most sincerely,  
Julie Kauffman  
Student Support Services Specialist II