So They Say This is Christmas...

By Nina Steffek

CHRISTMAS MAGIC COMMITTEE

For all those who doubt that there is a Santa Claus, the Alpha Zeta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa has proved you wrong. A month ago, we began spreading the word about Christmas Magic to our campus community. Our mission was a simple one: we wanted to give a Christmas to needy children, who otherwise would not have had one. We knew we were off to a good start when we distributed two hundred and fifteen childrens’ wish lists, and still had to turn away eighty wonderful people who wanted to shop for the needy children. On December 7, 8, and 9, at the Selden campus, people came from in and outside of our campus community to deliver and wrap over three thousand gifts.

Some of our most special moments were shared while getting to know all those who participated, especially the children who came down to experience firsthand what Christmas Magic was all about.

Everyone’s spirits were lifted through all the different aspects, including wrapping, shopping, or playing with the infants while some of the mothers wrapped gifts. Jolene Petrella and Rosanne Papalia made time to sit and entertain the children by inventing humorous children’s songs and amusing everyone with their beautiful voices. Magic happened and miracles took their place as we fulfilled all wishes that were made. The turnout was one of the most warm and heartfelt experiences Ray Voake, chair of Christmas Magic and vice president of Phi Theta Kappa, has ever enjoyed. “Without my committee, close personal friends and advisors, we never would have been able to put something like this together. The memories and friendships we built is something that I will hold close with me always and treasure forever.”

If there is no such thing as Santa Claus, then all those who don’t believe should take a better look around them. One day, a ten-week old named Paige Marie Dowling, will have a better appreciation for her father, Matthew Dowling, when she hears stories of how important her father really is, how much he means to people, and how close his ties to Santa really are. Or, sometime in the future, when Caroline Ru, Mike Gross, Rosemarie Dehn, and Bonnie James become successful in their lives, they will get a chance to look back and say, “Hey, I made a difference in a lot of people’s lives!” Chair Voake stated, “I know for a fact that they had a huge life changing impact on at least one person that sits on the committee—me.”

In conclusion to our theory that Santa Claus is real, we have supporting evidence through all the actions, time taken, and the caring our community gave to the children of Christmas Magic. Christmas Magic is not something you just do, it is within you. Christmas Magic is a spirit of love that can change you.