



Dear Almadale Friends and Neighbors,

WOW! We did it again. I am so moved by the generosity of this special neighborhood. We had our best response ever this year. This was another year that I tried to “Just Say No” to taking this on but I love the saying “*If you make yourself available, God will give you the ability*” and he did. I got to feel the spirit of Christmas everyday with packages at my door and checks in my mailbox.

BBBS usually has 20 families that need to be adopted and this year they only received help for 10. I’m so glad we said “Yes”. Through your generosity we were able to provide a dream Christmas for the Smith Family. Each of the kids received most items on their list and 3-4 items of clothing. They were very well mannered and helpful, unloading my overflowing van/sleigh. We let each child open one gift and the rest their Mom held till Christmas morning.

Mrs. Smith’s oldest son is 20 years old and he was not on the gift list because of his age. He is disabled because of a gun shot wound to the head. I gave him a \$30 Target gift card and he got very emotional. It turns out he was in the hospital recovering last Christmas and his Mom said he’s just glad to be here and didn’t expect anything from us. He said he’d like to get some clothes and really appreciated being included.

The Smith Family brought a Christmas/Thank you Card for Almadale Farms to the skating party thanking us for bringing them a Christmas they will never forget and wished us the best of God’s Blessings to all.

We collected enough to almost take on another family, but there wasn’t enough time left to shop. I gave the remainder to BBBS to help with families that needed it most that did not get help this year and to put towards the Ice Skating Party expenses.

Over 400 BBBS participants attended the party including three teens from our neighborhood and 13 from our church youth group. They did an amazing job with the kids. It was an awesome day for all.

Thanks again for you incredible support and being a part of something so special.

Blessings to all,
Rene Platten

You can view pictures of the
Smith Family and the ice skating party at
www.almadalefarms.org

