



NEWS for immediate release
Fremont County School District #1

December 22, 2009

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LVHS Student Council spearheads drive to benefit Make-A-Wish Foundation

(Lander) -- The Lander Valley High School Student Council reached another milestone in their on-going efforts to make children's wishes come true this holiday season.

Over the past few weeks, a district-wide letter drive, spearheaded by the student council, collected 679 letters to Santa. The letters were mailed to Macy's, which, for every letter they receive the national retailer will donate \$1 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"The idea came to the school through the Wyoming Association on Student Councils," Lisa Moss, co-sponsor to the LVHS student council said. "It was part of a state-wide effort to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and we did our part too."

The Make-A-Wish Foundation traces its roots back to 1980 when 7-year-old Christopher James Greicious was diagnosed with childhood leukemia. He had always dreamed of becoming a police officer. Through the help of the community, Greicious's wish was granted and the Make-A-Wish Foundation was born. Since then, over 186,924 wishes have been granted to children with serious medical conditions.

"This is just a great cause," Moss said. "It's also one that the student council has been behind for years."

The student council began the project by inspiring students district-wide to begin formulating letters to Santa. The letters could be about anything: a new toy the student wanted, a wish for a sibling, or just a quick note to say hello.

"Charleigh Johnson co-sponsored this project and she turned it into an educational tool as well," Moss said.

According to Moss, Johnson contacted English teachers across the district and asked if the teachers would make this project a part of a classroom workshop.

"She conformed the letters to meet the writing standards of the different grades," Moss said. "These weren't just generic letters, but had educational benefits to them as well."

The letters collected by the student leaders at LVHS will join the rivers of letters being sent off to Macy's from school districts all around the nation. And for that, Moss says, it is something that the students of Fremont County School District 1 can be proud of.

"We have done our part as part of the wider effort to help kids make a wish," she said. "Everything has been sent off. The students have done a great thing for a great cause."

The LVHS student council is not quite done with their fundraisers for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, though. They will have a basketball competition coming up later in the winter, and a fun run in April, all to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"Like I said before, this cause is a longstanding one between the students at LVHS and the children who receive their wishes," Moss said.