



Region Experiences “Christmas In April” Through Remedium’s Contributions

The week following Easter was far from a typical Spring Break in Chattooga County, according to Helping Hands End Hunger CEO Carla Harward.

Volunteers from around the region gave up their free time to help facilitate distribution of a third, generous durable goods donation from Remedium Life Science of Georgia and help give hope to children and families in need.

Valued at over \$100,000, bedding and kitchen items, shoes, clothes, fitness/exercise equipment, medical/aging supplies, musical instruments, and toys filled the Chattooga Agriculture Center. The region stepped up to support the Chattooga Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Helping Hands Ending Hunger tasked with distribution for widest impact.

Remedium Director, John Quinlivan, President of Redmond Regional Health System, was on site when the truck arrived with the delivery.

“We’re proud to partner with the Chattooga Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Helping Hands Ending Hunger to bring “Christmas in April” to so many kids and families here in Chattooga County,” Mr. Quinlivan said. “Our Remedium team looks forward to a long partnership with Chattooga County through which we’ll create good-paying jobs, produce high-quality, needed medication, and continue our commitment to philanthropy through events like this.”

A group of 45 big-hearted high school students from Ridgeland High and LaFayette High in Walker County committed a day to unpack and organize the pallets of goods. Chattooga County did not disappoint with over 25 student and adult volunteers from Three Circles Founda-

tion, Chattooga Family Connection and Chattooga County Schools. From diverse backgrounds, these students were able to shop for themselves and family as part of the day. It proved to be a wonderful collaborative effort, bringing our region together for an impactful cause. Chattooga Family Connections even sponsored pizza for lunch for the group, according to Harward.

The highlight of the event came the following day when school children from around the region were invited to shop like it was Christmas, just as Chattooga school children were able to do as part of a prior Remedium donation last November. An excited group of Helping Hands Ending Hunger participants from an inner-city Dalton school, City Park Elementary, came prepared with lists of family members and ideas for what they “needed” and also what they “wanted.” Children were taught the difference as part of their curriculum beforehand and were able to internalize it at the event. All were giddy, even the adult chaperones, as children were able to fill bags with goodies for themselves and families.

Experiencing more of what Chattooga has to offer, this group also was able to visit Dick Dowdy Park as a picnic site, play on the playground, walk around the track and even enjoy popsicles from Ingles, before the long ride home.

Alecia Halman, ESOL teacher at City Park and coordinator of the school’s Helping Hands program, helped deliver the goods to the students’ homes afterwards. She commented about the day: “It was eye opening to drive around in their neighborhoods and see the living conditions of our students. They were so excited when I delivered their bags. It was such a blessing to

these kiddos to have this opportunity.”

Late morning, three schools from Walker County arrived at the Ag Center with similar preparation. Cherokee Ridge Elementary, Rossville Elementary, and Gilbert Elementary identified 32 children at their respective schools whose families were struggling and really needed a helping hand. These students receive food weekly from Helping Hands Ending Hunger; they were able to make a lifetime memory shopping to their hearts’ content, no rules.

School counselors, social workers, faculty, and other groups of regional impact, including Family Connections and the Boys and Girls Club, also came to the Ag Center to shop. One teacher from City Park Elementary shared that the school had started a fine arts program but was unable to develop it because of COVID. She was elated to find a ballet bar and musical instruments for programming. Social workers and counselors were ecstatic about the several pallets of diapers. They filled vehicles to take back to the families they serve. One school even scored for their outdoor classroom STEM program with quality waders the students and teachers can use in their aquatic environment.

Beth Pelham, Principal of Gilbert Elementary, shared about her school’s experience: “Our students are still giddy. ... In their words, it was ‘The best day ever!’ It was such a joy to witness as many of our students shopped for their family members before themselves. It touched my heart.”

Lori Vann, Principal of Cherokee Ridge Elementary, attended the event with her students and remarked: “We were blown away with our students and their reaction to this trip. They truly had a wonderful experience. Students were so excited to share with their siblings and parents the goods they brought home.”

Reflecting on a particularly moving moment, Ms. Vann observed: “Seeing a fifth-grade boy get a bicycle for his first-grade brother has been a great moment for us at CRE.”

Beyond students, the event had even wider reach for the Walker County community. “One of the school social workers was able to pick up several items for a family who is setting up a home after getting out of an abusive situation,” according to Ms. Vann.

Embracing the day and the need, Jim Aaron, Summerville McDonalds, donated Happy Meals as the topper for the day for these children. For most of the students, such food is not normal course. They were truly grateful for the opportunity and to be treated so wonderfully.

Walker County Schools

Superintendent Damon Raines attended the event and shared the benefit of the opportunity for his school system beyond the day of the event. “The smiles on the faces of our students continues to be our motivation,” Superintendent Raines reflected.

Remedium Life Science of Georgia is partnering with the Northwest Georgia Joint Development Authority, Chattooga County, and the Town of Trion to establish a new innovative industry in the community.

Remedium is seeking a license to cultivate and manufacture medical cannabis in the form of low-THC oil for Georgia’s qualified patients. If successful, Remedium will research, develop, and distribute high quality, specialized medical cannabis solutions throughout the State of Georgia, while bringing jobs and economic growth to Northwest Georgia.



ALECIA HALMAN HELPS A STUDENT FROM City Park Elementary School To Shop



CITY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GROUP LOADS Goodies In Volunteer’s Box Truck To Take Home



GILBERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOPPERS COME To Chattooga To Receive Some Remedium Gifts



OTHER COMMUNITIES BENEFIT FROM REMEDIUM’S Donation Of Goods Like LaFayette High School