



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Aspen Meadow students focus on others this holiday season with food drive and coats for kids**

**Fort Wayne, Ind. (Dec. 19, 2022)** – Students from Aspen Meadow are giving back through a food drive and fundraiser for people in need this winter. The newly formed student council collected 1,300 non-perishable food items the past two weeks through a competition among the grades, and they collected more than \$300 for winter coats.

“We’re glad to begin our student council at our new school by putting the focus on others,” said Lochmueller. “This donation is an extension of showing kindness beyond the walls of our school. Sometimes it’s the small things that add up to the big moments in people’s lives that makes the difference.”

A representative from Lifehouse Church and Martha’s Closet, Sherry Meyers, will accept a check and donations today at 11 a.m. at the school. Student council will help load the donations for the church.

The 16-member council made posters, counted cans and boxes, and voted on a prize for the winning grade level with the most items. They also hosted a “Slipper Day” where each student who donated a dollar could wear slippers for the day.

“Getting to wear slippers to school for a dollar (on) one day resulted in a huge success,” said Carey Charlton, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and co-sponsor of student council, Aspen Meadow Elementary School. “The students collected \$335.25 to be donated to Martha’s closet to buy winter coats for those in need.”

This is the first community donation by Aspen Meadow’s student council since the school opened in 2021. Principal Kim Lochmueller has been intentional about establishing a culture of kindness and care.

Northwest Allen County Schools believes in providing a healthy and safe learning environment that engages, supports, and challenges each learner in a culture of achievement and excellence. More information about NACS may be found at [nacs.k12.in.us](http://nacs.k12.in.us). NACS serves an estimated 8,137 students in 11 schools spanning three townships in Allen County, Ind.

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