



From: Montcalm Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 21, 2021

Local Family Gives Special Gift To CASA Children

(Stanton, MI) –The Montcalm Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program was blessed this Holiday season by the Thompson family from Sheridan. The family wanted to pay it forward in a big way and provided cozy new pajamas and warm blankets to gift children involved with the CASA program.

Susan Thompson and her children were looking for a way to give back this year with the goal to share the wonderful, loved feeling they find in their own family tradition of opening new pajamas and blankets on Christmas Eve. They wanted to spread this joy to children who might need a little extra love this holiday season. Susan contacted CASA Coordinator Jamie Gorby, who immediately loved the idea and collaborated with her CASA volunteers to gauge need, specify sizes, and arm the family with a list.

Susan’s children, Kaiden, Trevor, Chase, and McKenna, were on board and went to work raising the needed funds quickly. They held a pop can drive, solicited donations, and even had a free throw shoot-a-thon to raise funds. Ultimately the children raised \$940 and were able to provide 26 children with nice pajamas, cozy thick blankets to call their own, all nicely gift packaged. The family surpassed their fundraising goal, using the extra funds to provide 16 additional blankets to the CASA program. These blankets will be kept on hand to give to children as they enter into foster care.

Jamie Gorby, shared, “Susan was so wonderful to work with. Her energy and enthusiasm really encompassed the true meaning of Christmas and the joy of giving. She was so passionate about sharing this giving experience with her children and it was such a privilege to connect our CASA kids with this amazing gift. We are so grateful.” All four of the Thompson children had thoughts to share about the project. Kaiden said, “I had a lot of fun raising money and I would like to do it again.” Trevor says he was “glad to be able to help these kids.” Chase relayed, “I hope all the kids will feel more loved this Christmas.” McKenna shared that she “hopes the kids will smile when they see the pictures she colored for each of them.”

Montcalm CASA is a program administered by EightCAP, Inc. that provides trained volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in the Montcalm County Juvenile Court system.

PRESS RELEASE

CASA volunteers are assigned to a child or sibling group and work to ensure that the children's needs are being met and that their voices are heard in court proceedings. Volunteers speak on behalf of children at court hearings and stay on each assigned case until it is closed, and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. For more information about the Montcalm CASA program, or to find out how you can help, please contact Jamie Gorby at (989) 831-3561 or montcalmcasa@scap.org



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From left:

Susan, Kaiden, Trevor, & Chase Thompson, CASA Volunteer: Patricia Gabor
Front: McKenna Thompson