

December 10th, 2010

Dear Mendocino Coast Children's Fund,

My name is D'Ann Garcia and I am a Youth Worker here on our coast. I wanted to take a moment to express my immense gratitude to you all at MCCF this holiday season. Also, to share some of the ways I personally see your organization impact our local kids.



It may not sound like much at first, but you have given movie passes to some of our local youth. To many, that would seem a sweet gesture. I had never stopped to consider that I would be coming across hands' full of kids, born and raised in Ft Bragg that have NEVER seen the inside of a movie theatre. I've seen for myself the impact a movie pass can have and what a beautiful smile such a simple experience can bring.

There are many challenges with families and their children that I work with. Over the years, you have answered every request. For families with minimal or no heat, you have provided sleeping bags. For kids with no power at home, you have provided wristwatches with alarms so they can wake up for school. For kids with no transportation living outside of the bus zone, you have provided MTA passes, positively impacting their attendance. That, of course, is reflected in their academic achievement as well.

You provide food cards when needed. Winter coats. You have organized a food program for kids on the weekends. Shower passes, laundry quarters, detergent and towels; swim passes at C. V. Starr; clothing vouchers at Paul Bunyan, vouchers for a much-needed pair of shoes. I could go on and on.

Considering the fact that your organization is funded only by donations and run entirely by volunteers, I cannot help but be blown away. I deeply believe in the statement, "It takes a village to raise a child." I want you to know how proud I am to be in the same village as you. This is what it looks like when local folks gather to make a difference in the lives of local kids. From the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of our coastal kids, thank you Mendocino Coast Children's Fund. You are making a difference.

Much love,

D'Ann Garcia

Mendocino County Youth Project