Times Herald

deliver holiday cheer



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Port Huron Times Herald

Dec. 19, 2025, 4:05 a.m. ET

When a greater need emerged in the Marlette community just weeks before Christmas, members of the Marlette Jr./Sr. High School National Honor Society did not hesitate to change course.

Originally, NHS students had selected a different service project and began fundraising in November through a "12 Days of Giving" ornament fundraiser. Each student filled a paper tree with dollar amounts ranging from $1 to $12, raising $78 per member.

In early December, Superintendent James Marshall reached out to National Honor Society adviser Kayla Prill to share concerns about families who lived outside the Toys for Tots service area and still needed support for the holidays.

After discussing the situation with NHS President Lauren Pasek, the group called an emergency meeting to consider redirecting their efforts.

The vote was unanimous.

Rather than continue with the original project, NHS members chose to provide Christmas gifts for 17 families, serving 25 children in the district. Each student was assigned a child's age, gender and wish list to shop for, ensuring personalized gifts for every child.

As planning continued, students realized many families were also struggling to provide a holiday meal. NHS then partnered with Marlette First Church to provide Christmas dinners through holiday food boxes. Students will help unload the food truck, pack the boxes and assist with distribution.

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“Being part of this event is very rewarding,” Pasek said. “It is great to know that we get to make a difference this holiday season for our peers. With our help more people experience Christmas cheer with their family.”

Senior NHS member Tessa Owen said the effort went beyond gift giving.

“This mattered to me because everyone deserves to feel the Christmas Spirit,” Owen said. “This also promoted teamwork within NHS and allowed us to do something good this holiday season.”

Marshall said the students’ willingness to pivot at the last minute speaks volumes about their character.

“Seeing our students step up to help others makes me incredibly proud,” Marshall said. “Their willingness to serve shows strong character and a genuine commitment to meeting the needs of our community.”

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