

RITE NOW @ ROP



Community engagement and perception are a crucial part of program success. Hillcrest Academy (HCA) recognized that COVID restrictions have had an impact on our ability to maximize community involvement. The holidays proved to be an ideal time for HCA to take steps to refocus on community engagement. HCA started by reinstating our community action board, hosting an open house and establishing a Facebook page to improve communication with our stakeholders.

When planning for the holidays, HCA decided to ask our gracious community if they could donate a few items so that we would be able to provide Christmas gifts to our students and boy did they show up for us! HCA's Facebook community engagement went through the roof and the donations came rolling in. When HCA pulled all of our donations out to sort them we were completely overwhelmed by the gifts provided by HCA's neighbors, staff, family members and the University of Cincinnati School of Criminal Justice. What a great problem to have!

Each cottage of students received a shared box with a brand new football, basketball and soccer ball, at least 3 jigsaw puzzles, 4-5 board games, card games, DVDs and an assortment of puzzle books and novels for their leisure time.

Each student received their very own wrapped gift to open on Christmas of assorted hygiene items and socks and thermals. Our status students also received their own watch and radio.

The status student game room received quite a few video games and board games to share.

And lastly, we received brand new winter hats, shoes, towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste and additional hygiene items for our students transitioning out of the program.

The outpouring of care from the community far exceeded our expectations. We are so grateful to have such strong community support helping us on our mission.
