

HopeSource Giving Tree collects gifts for Bright Beginnings families



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From left, HopeSource staffers Alicia Stoeckl and Elizabeth Jackson are pictured with family and volunteer partnership manager Romy Pruneda and Bright Beginnings staff member Yesenia Lopez. The women are surrounded by gifts donated by community members for the children attending Bright Beginnings. (Contributed by Susan Grindle / HopeSource)

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For the Daily Record

Local nonprofit HopeSource sponsored two giving trees that will provide gifts and holiday cheer to families from Bright Beginnings during the 5 Days of Christmas event at Canyon River Ranch earlier this month.

More than 200 gifts were delivered to HopeSource by community members who purchased and wrapped gifts for a child for delivery later this week. The two trees were decorated with tags that described each child's age, gender and favorite color or activity.

Alicia Stoeckl from HopeSource worked closely with Bright Beginnings on the project.

"I was inspired by the response and by how excited people were to be involved in this," Stoeckl said.

Kitty Wallace from Windermere Realty said her family picked five 4-year-old boys.

"My son and I went shopping and picked out soccer balls and baseballs and some things not on their list that my son thought they should have," Wallace said. "It was a wonderful experience to share with my son, and to watch him be excited about giving to others was amazing."