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## Angel Tree Project Yields Gifts for 39 Children

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—The annual Angel Tree project has been making Christmas merrier for area needy families for about seven years.

This year, a record 39 children received a handful of wrapped gifts each, purchased by members of the Keuka College community.

“The whole campus did an amazing job of pulling together for the project,” said Kristie DeMarco, the College’s Community Service Coordinator and AmeriCorps\* VISTA volunteer, who oversaw the 2004 Angel Tree.

Members of the College community who took an angel off of the tree were instructed to buy two gifts—a toy and an outfit—for the child, whose age, sex, and clothing size were provided.

And they went above and beyond the call of duty.

“Every child received two or three outfits and [the same number of] toys,” said DeMarco.

The packages were delivered to the Yates County Child and Family Resource Center in Penn Yan by Office of Experiential Education staff, including DeMarco and two students employed as community service advocates, Samantha Borthwick and Erika Noll, as well as four other students—Mary Beth Warren, Kryn Palmquist, Gretchen Marion and Heather Mills—on Friday, Dec. 10.

“The children were very excited when Santa came out and even more excited when their names were called one at a time to come and open up their gifts on his lap,” said DeMarco. “Each child only opened one gift and took the rest home to open on Christmas day.”



Front, left to right: Community Service Advocate/AmeriCorps\* VISTA Volunteer Kristie DeMarco, Kryn Palmquist, Samantha Borthwick, and Mary Beth Warren. Back, Coordinator of Experiential Services Sally Ann Swartley.