



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

Media Contact:

Deb Gill
U.S. DOE Carlsbad Field Office
(575) 234-7270

www.wipp.energy.gov

CBFO and WIPP Volunteerism Helps Little Ones This Winter

CARLSBAD, N.M., November 25, 2014 --

November's winter chill started early in New Mexico; however, children in the Carlsbad area should be able to keep warm while outdoors thanks in part to the actions of the Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) team of employees.

"This is the third year we've held the 'Karing for Kids Coat Drive,' which is on-going from October through the end of November," said Margaret Gee, one of the organizers from CBFO, which annually joins with Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP), the WIPP management and operating contractor, to help children in the area receive winter clothes. CBFO has responsibility for WIPP and the National Transuranic Program.

"Sadly, adequate winter clothing may not be a reality for struggling families," Gee said. "We decided on the volunteer initiative after schools informed us that some of their students came to school cold and without coats. As the student population grows, the need increases each year."

The team of federal, contractors' and subcontractors' employees makes a difference in the lives of the children. Last year, the group's collection of new or gently used winter coats, sweaters, gloves, scarves and hats for children in need totaled approximately 170 items.

"Federal employees are an important part of each and every community where we live and work," said CBFO Manager Joe Franco. "The generosity shown by CBFO and WIPP employees represents their character and compassion. This effort helps to keep children warm throughout the community."

- More -

Counselors and teachers in the public schools are able to provide the donated clothing to those children who need it most. Carlsbad schools also are able to increase participation by providing the coat drive flyer to their staff and parents who may want to donate clothing.

Photo Caption (Photo submitted by Department of Energy):

(Left to Right) Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP), the WIPP management and operating contractor, President and Project Manager Bob McQuinn, Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Manager Joe Franco, and CBFO organizers - Margaret Gee, Martin Navarrete and Dennis Miehl – hold up some of the donated coats that will be provided to Carlsbad area schools. CBFO organizers not pictured: Andrea Cooper, Kristi Squires and Russ Patterson. NWP organizers not pictured: Bertha Cassingham, Dana Dorr, Yolanda Salmon, and Yolanda Navarrete.