



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Holiday giving at Botsford Commons

The Annual Giving Tree benefits all ages

Farmington Hills, MI – Botsford Commons and Botsford Elementary have a special relationship - it's multigenerational. As a Title 1 school, Botsford Elementary falls into an area with low income families, many without books and many without a daily influence to read. Years ago, residents at Botsford Commons developed the Botsford Buddies program where once a month residents are taken to the school and the second graders read out loud to the residents. It was through this program, residents saw an opportunity to give more to the students and the Giving Tree program was born.

63 first graders from Botsford Elementary walked into the Bistro dining room, sat down and prepared to sing for the residents of Botsford Commons. To their surprise, Santa walked in, greeted them and told them he had a surprise. Santa's helpers handed personalized bags to every student; all with brand new books, donated by staff, residents, and families and chosen just for the student's reading levels and interests. A countdown told the students to open the bags and open their wrapped books – the joy and happiness in the room from the children was overwhelming. The students walked around the room showing the residents their new books with such pride and excitement – it was a wonderful sight to see.

The group also sang "Happy Birthday" to two people, decades apart in age. The first time was sung for Fritz, a resident at Botsford Commons who was celebrating his 99th birthday and another time for a first grade girl turning 7. Regardless of their 92 year age difference, they both reacted with beaming smiles from ear to ear while their friends sang.

Every child also received a brand new stuffed animal from an anonymous Farmington Hills donor as well as a holiday themed painting from downtown Farmington's Painting with a Twist. The community's generosity to Botsford Elementary students and the residents of Botsford Commons is a true testament to the power of people and the holiday spirit.

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Botsford Commons Senior Community is a non-profit corporation providing housing and service options for seniors. Located on a 30-acre campus in Farmington Hills, Michigan, the award-winning Community offers a full continuum of care for the area's senior population including short stay rehabilitation services, long-term care and skilled nursing, privately owned condominiums, and rental options for senior apartments and assisted living suites. Botsford Commons Senior Living Center was recently awarded a Level III Quality Seal from the Michigan Center for Assisted Living (MCAL) and a past Bronze National Quality Award from the American Health Care Association/ National Center for Assisted Living. For more information visit the website at: www.botsfordcommons.org.



Santa hugs the 7 year old birthday girl, while Barb Smith, Fullness of Life coordinator looks on.



Students enjoy their new books and stuffed animals.