



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

*Lititz Public Library broke all records this year by collecting a total of **806** items!*



Public Libraries announce results of the 12th Annual Mitten Tree Campaign!

December 22, 2011 - Public Libraries throughout Lancaster County are pleased to announce that they collected **3,514** donations during their 12th annual Mitten Tree Campaign. Librarians from the county's public libraries, in the spirit of holiday giving, collected new mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, earmuffs and umbrellas for children in Lancaster County during a one month period that began on Monday, November 21 and ended on Friday, December 16, 2011. Most of the public library locations participated in this year's project.

Many of libraries collected a number of hand-knitted items from the community. Most of the items collected this year will be distributed to service agencies, churches and other charitable organizations within each of the local libraries' communities. The Bridge of Hope, Water Street Rescue Mission, Milagro House, local food banks and shelters were among many groups that benefited from the community's generosity. Lancaster County's Children and Youth Social Service Agency will oversee a portion of the distribution to children throughout the county.



Left: Danielle Peters, Director of the Columbia Food Bank and Lisa Greybill, Columbia Public Library Director gather Mitten Tree's donations.



Manheim Township Public Library's Mitten Tree

Lisa Greybill, director of the Columbia Public Library, stated that "giving is more than writing large monetary checks. The best kinds of gifts don't always involve money - they are gifts from the heart." Dorothy Mann, who passed away this past summer, was the Columbia Public Library's "anonymous donor" of hundreds of items for many years. Her daughter, Barb Mann, now continues her mother's tradition. She donated 100 hats that she knitted in honor of her mother.

The Mitten Tree project has been hugely successful in the past and hopefully will continue in the years to come. Although there has been a steady increase of generosity from the community since the project first began in 2000, this year's donations were down by approximately 400 items. The chart below shows the collection numbers from 2000-2011.

2000	1,554
2001	2,038
2002	1,435
2003	1,457
2004	2,121
2005	2,207
2006	2,885
2007	3,187
2008	4,121
2009	3,852
2010	3,909
2011	3,514

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