

Making wishes come true

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Making a wish this Christmas brought more than high hopes for the wisher.



Residents may have noticed a different mailbox downtown or at the Alvarado Public Library just before Christmas. The boxes were for letters to Santa and in the spirit of the season, helped make wishes come true to those who believe.

Charlie Miller was one of the proud wishers who put his letter in the box next to the gazebo on town square.

“I asked for a DS, it’s a game, and a real four-wheeler,” Miller said after carefully

addressing his letter to the North Pole.

Miller, 4, of Joshua said he saw Santa Claus at day care before he began the end-of-year school break. He said he hoped to stay up late Christmas Eve believing he may catch another glimpse of the holiday saint delivering a present to him.

True to many magical moments, there are people helping to ensure the moment is special. Miss Teen Fort Worth, Rachel Callicutt, 14, volunteered to pick up mail from the letter boxes in Alvarado and deliver it to R.H. Macy’s and Company in Fort Worth.

Leanna Cowan, director at the Alvarado Public Library, said Callicutt presented the collection idea to her. Cowan offered the use of the library’s existing letter box and the one downtown to gather letters. She supported Callicutt’s effort also allowing her use of the library for a Miss Teen autographing session to get more people involved.

The library became home to the pickup and signing Wednesday before Callicutt journeyed to Fort Worth with the letters.

The Joshua High School freshman is on her second year to make a collection around the area.

“This year I wanted to start early and just in Joshua and Keene I got 845 letters, so that’s \$845 for the

foundation,” Callicutt said. “I was hoping that through Alvarado we could get up to \$1,000.”

Callicutt’s \$1,000 goal was an aspiration aside from preparing for the Miss Texas pageant. Service work is not required at her level, but Callicutt likes the opportunity to help in the community.

“This helps sick children who need help,” she said. “The foundation helps them with all the money they donate and it’s something I can do. It really does help and it makes [me] feel good.”

The Macy’s Believe Campaign contributed \$1 to the Make A Wish Foundation for each stamped letter received before the letters were taken to the post office en route to the North Pole.

The Macy’s goal was to collect a million “reasons to believe” as it donated up to \$1 million to help children this season.

The Make a Wish Foundation grants children with life-threatening medical conditions financial contributions helping to give them strength, hope and joy.

The Macy’s Believe Campaign story began with an 8-year-old girl’s letter to the editor of the New York Sun in 1891. Virginia O’Hanlon asked if Santa Claus was real. The editor, Francis Church, responded with a message to believe in the magic of things unseen.