



Nearly 100 friends and family members came together recently at the home of Ken and Jan Pfeifer to celebrate “Receiving Because of Giving,” an evening dreamed up by the couple to allow guests to appreciate what they have while giving generously to those in need. Planning and coordinating the get-together was a community affair, with significant contributions coming from friends Pete and Mary Ellen Kahn and Dan and Kim Mullooly. Several local businesses also made donations to the gathering, including Tranquility Farms, Hayek’s, Krave Café & Caterers and The Liquor Factory.

“It’s better to give than receive,” commented Ken Pfeifer about his motivation for holding the event. “You will receive a good feeling because of giving.” Guests brought along unwrapped toys and monetary contributions, which will be donated to Project Self-Sufficiency for distribution to low-income families during the holiday season. Even though the event took place in early October, Ken and Jan put up a Christmas tree and a menorah to get partygoers in the holiday spirit. Guests dropped off their gifts, and then enjoyed cocktails and food with the other revelers. “Not everyone is as fortunate as we are,” noted Jan. “If you have it, give it. You will feel good about it.”

Project Self-Sufficiency is a private non-profit community-based organization dedicated to improving the lives of low-income families residing in northwestern New Jersey. The agency’s mission is to provide a broad spectrum of holistic, respectful, and comprehensive services enabling low-income single parents, teen parents, two-parent families, and displaced homemakers to improve their lives and the lives of their children by achieving personal and economic self-sufficiency and family stability. Since 1986 Project Self-Sufficiency has served more than 18,000 families, including over 30,000 children.

Each December, Project Self-Sufficiency creates a “Holiday Toy Shop” for needy families, allowing them to choose gifts for their children free of charge. New and unwrapped items for infants through

teenagers are gratefully accepted. Last year, the agency’s waiting list for gifts totaled more than 1,000 children.

“Many of our participants struggle to meet the basic needs of their families throughout the year. The added expenses associated with the holidays can be very difficult for them, particularly during these stressful economic times,” notes Deborah Berry-Toon, Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency. “The generosity demonstrated by Ken and Jan Pfeifer and their friends proves that the actions of one family can make a big difference in the life of a child. We are especially grateful for their creativity and generosity at this time of year.”

For information about donating gifts to the Holiday Toy Drive, or to find out more about any of the services provided by Project Self-Sufficiency, please call 973-940-3500.



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