



Lamar Daily News

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ON THE WEB

Share the Spirit donates \$6,000 to help children

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LAMAR DAILY NEWS

Founded in 2002, Share the Spirit Foundation, based in Lamar and Illinois, was able to donate approximately \$6,000 to area businesses and others so they could purchase shoes for needy children.

The Foundation founded by Lamar residents Karen Voepel and Cindy Farmer and Voepel's sister-in-law, Tonya Voepel from Illinois was formed to "help share the burden of providing for those in need" as the Foundation's mission statement says.

The three decided to form the foundation after they took part in the 60 mile 2002 Avon Breast Cancer Walk in Colorado and were inspired to do something to help those in need, according to K. Voepel.

The Foundation's first activity was to raise money to purchase shoes for needy children in both southeastern Colorado and Illinois. As well as raising money, the three also decided to

participate in a physical activity, which they chose to complete a 16 1/2 mile hike from rim to rim

of the Grand Canyon.

To raise the money the three sent out letters and were assisted

by the Lamar High School DECA program who also sent out letters and set up donation boxes for

shoes at many local businesses.

The money raised by Farmer and the DECA students went to the Lamar High School DECA program in which new shoes and socks were given to Lamar Elementary School students. The money raised by K. Voepel went to the Prowers County Nursing Service who will be giving new shoes and socks to children in need under the age of six. The money raised by T. Voepel in Illinois was given to the Panhandle School District #2 there.

The Prowers County Nursing Service received \$1,600 from Share the Spirit. Altogether the Nursing Service will be able to distribute approximately 400 pairs of shoes to children in southeastern Colorado. They purchased the shoes from Wal-Mart, J&N Shoes and Big R. Jama boots (Big R) gave the Nursing Service matching funds to purchase boots for children.

Nearly 100 percent of the funds raised by Share the Spirit is distributed to the group in need.



Pictured, from left to right, Tanya Martinez, Wal-Mart, Vicki Lewis, Prowers County Nursing Service, Darla Klotz, Wal-Mart, Jennifer Steward, J&N Shoes, and Karen Voepel, Share the Spirit, give a pair of new pink boots and socks to one-year-old Graciella, who is being held by her mom, Sylvia Lopez.

Photo by Verna McDowell