

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 22, 2014

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Darlington County First Steps and IAAP Show their Christmas Spirit

Hartsville, S.C. – December 22, 2014- Darlington County First Steps (DCFS) and the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) came together, on December 16, 2014, to make Exterlic Moses and her family's Christmas a little brighter as they delivered gifts to her home in Hartsville.

Exterlic Moses is enrolled in one of DCFS' programs, Parents As Teachers, which helps parents strengthen their skills while preparing children for a stronger start in life. Moses and her partner have six children together. One of Moses' biggest worries for this Christmas was not being able to get all of her kids the gifts they desired. Because of her relationship with DCFS, her needs did not go unheard.

President of the Hartsville Chapter IAAP, Marsha Eide said, "For the past three years, we have coordinated this effort with Darlington County First Steps. They select the family for us to adopt and send us a list of their needs and wants."

IAAP is a not-for-profit professional association for office professionals. The association was founded in 1942 as the National Secretaries Association to provide a professional network and educational resources for secretarial staff. The name was changed in 1998 to encompass the large number of varied administrative job titles and recognize the advancing role of administrative support staff. "The Hartsville Chapter has been involved with adopting a Christmas family as one of our community outreach projects for several years. Adopting a family for Christmas is our favorite community outreach project" said Eides.

This was evident as Eides and staff entered Moses' house with gleeful spirits. Moses' tree went from being just a tree with pretty decorations, to a tree with pretty decorations and plenty of presents to accent the beautiful work.

The gifts not only included items of need such as coats, shoes, clothes, and grocery store gift cards but items of want which were toys, games, personal gifts and department store gift cards.

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Eides explained, "It's heartwarming to know that this small act of kindness will bring joy to others. Not only the children, but also the parents/grandparents. We realize how blessed we are and enjoy sharing our blessings with others. Does a heart good!"

Parent Educator, Linda Bright, of DCFS' Parents As Teachers program has worked closely with Moses for a number of years. Bright said, "Ms. Moses is an employed mother with limited resources. She works hard to provide a solid foundation for her children and with us helping her this Christmas is something that I know she is greatly appreciative of."

DCFS serves children pre-birth to 5 years old and their families to help prepare them for school and for the future. If interested in enrolling in one of DCFS' programs, contact the office at 843-857-3148, located on 437 West Carolina Avenue – Building One in Hartsville.