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## **Mojo in the Morning visits Hoover Elementary, grants special ‘Breaking and Entering’ Christmas wish**

*Local radio show, volunteers turn Hoover Elementary into the North Pole, spread Christmas cheer to students and staff*

**Lincoln Park, Mich.** – Lincoln Park Hoover Elementary students and staff were in awe on Monday, Dec. 17, when they learned their school had been selected as Mojo in the Morning’s final “Breaking and Entering” Christmas wish recipient for 2018. **Renee Pledge**, a paraprofessional in Ms. Simpson’s classroom for students with autism, submitted a letter requesting a pizza party and gifts for her students, but the **Mojo in the Morning** radio team had much more in mind.

“This was the most difficult secret I have ever had to keep in my life, but the looks on the faces of our students and staff made it all worth it,” said **Katherine Stepulla**, Hoover Elementary principal. “I want to thank Mojo in the Morning and all the volunteer organizations who made this day possible and Ms. Pledge for entering the contest. Hoover Elementary will remember this day for a very long time.”

It took weeks of preparation and coordination among numerous volunteers and sponsor organizations to bring this surprise to life. Volunteers worked all day on Sunday to pack food bags sponsored by Kroger, wrap gifts and unload toys to transform the stage in the Hoover gym into the North Pole.

On Monday, all 244 Hoover students piled into the gym to kick off the day of surprises, which started with a performance by magician **Ryan Christopher**. Then, Mojo announced Ms. Simpson’s class would receive a pizza party sponsored by **Papa Romano’s** and that each student would receive two items from their Christmas wish list and a \$100 gift card from **Kroger**.

That was just the beginning. Every student in the school also received hats and gloves and a bag of food donated by Kroger. Students were then invited on stage to sit on Santa’s lap and pick out three toys from Five Below donated by **RSL Medical Marketing**. Students also enjoyed popcorn from the **Detroit Popcorn Company**.

“I have always dreamed of producing an ‘Oprah moment’ where everyone can collectively share in something so wonderful and that dream came to reality during this experience,” said **Rachel Giordano**, executive producer of the Mojo in the Morning show. “I am so happy we chose to surprise this school. It was the perfect size and the students and staff were so appreciative.”

The Detroit Pistons sent their mascot, Hooper, and the Pistons dancers to announce the entire school would receive tickets to the Pistons March 10 game against the Chicago Bulls. **Trinity Transportation** will provide buses to the game and everyone who attends will eat for free at the District Market Detroit, inside Little Caesar’s Arena, thanks to **Matthew Prost**, general manager of **Delaware North**.

The last surprise of the day was definitely the biggest: All 75 staff members received a \$500 check. The \$37,000 donation was the largest single donation Mojo in the Morning's "Breaking and Entering" had ever made.

"We are so thankful to Mojo in the Morning and everyone involved for choosing Hoover Elementary to receive this awesome surprise," said **Terry Dangerfield**, Lincoln Park Public Schools superintendent. "It truly warmed my heart to see the smiles on the faces of our students and hard working staff. This is what the holiday season is all about."

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