

December 15, 2016

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### **Trimming the Opportunity Tree**

Sterling, VA: Children in INMED’s after-school program celebrated the Opportunity Center’s second anniversary this month by trimming the Christmas “opportunity” tree in the front lobby, as dreams of an early Christmas danced in their heads. The tree trimmers were not disappointed. The following day, two of Santa’s elves from TEGNA, Inc. (a spin-off of Gannett Co., Inc.) appeared with gifts collected by TGNA employees for a family enrolled in INMED’s homelessness prevention program. Other gifts from generous Loudoun residents have been arriving at the center in preparation for INMED’s annual family Christmas party on December 16.

Founded in 1986, INMED Partnerships for Children opened the Opportunity Center in Sterling to provide low-income families access to resources and opportunities that can reshape the future of children at greatest risk of poverty, abuse, neglect, homelessness, violence and worse. The center offers family education and skills development programs; homelessness prevention and intervention case management; after-school and summer camp enrichment, tutoring and mentoring programs; and other assistance to nurture healthy children.

INMED gratefully accepts gifts for its families during the holidays, as well as year-round gifts in the form of volunteers, donations and other support. For more information, please contact Center Director Maria Vasquez at [mvasquez@inmed.org](mailto:mvasquez@inmed.org) or visit [www.opportunitycenter.us](http://www.opportunitycenter.us).

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Caption – INMED photo-1: Children in INMED’s after-school program eagerly decorate the Opportunity Center’s Christmas tree in hopes of an early Santa sighting.



Caption - INMED photo-2: Two of Santa’s elves from TNGA, Inc. (pictured here with INMED case manager Gester Pino, left) arrived early one morning bearing gifts collected by the publishing group’s employees.