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When Wishes Come True

STERLING, VA (December 19, 2016): The children in INMED's After-School Program enjoyed making wish lists for Christmas. Six-year-old Maria, for example, didn't get the My Little Pony she asked her mother for last year, so it went back on her list this year. Roberto wanted Pokémon cards to add to his collection, but he didn't expect to get them now that his mother's job has been cut to part-time. The children weren't sure why their INMED teacher, Erin Lewis, was planning to do with their wish lists, but they soon found out when a mysterious stranger came to their annual Christmas party at the Opportunity Center in Sterling last week.

The mysterious stranger was Christina Krogh of Building Confident Kids, a new Leesburg-based nonprofit that seeks to build the self-esteem of children in crisis situations by providing care packages and support activities, such as art, music and pet therapy. In addition to the children's wish list items, the care packages included inspiring children's books and journals to support

cathartic expression. Krogh chose INMED's after-school kids as the first recipients of her care packages. ■

"Delivering the care packages to the children at INMED's Opportunity Center was one of the best days of my life," noted Krogh "Seeing the smiles and excitement on their faces was a gift to me. I founded Building Confident Kids to make a positive difference in children's lives and for them to know they matter and are not forgotten." It is Krogh's belief that when a child has confidence, he is better equipped to handle life's adversities. "I included a wish list gift inside every care package to make each child feel special." Krogh is looking forward to giving away many more care packages in the coming year.

For more information about Building Confident Kids, visit <http://www.buildingconfidentkids.org>. For more about INMED Partnerships for Children and its Opportunity Center in Sterling, visit www.opportunitycenter.us.

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