

NEWS RELEASE

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Dentist Buys 1,000 Pounds of Halloween Candy

LAS CRUCES – Dr. Brian Gilbert and associates of Bright Star Dental in Las Cruces, conducted its first Halloween candy buy-back event on November 2, 2009. Children, including many who attend LCPS schools, brought their candy to Bright Star, where it was weighed, and the children were paid \$1 per pound, said Cheryl Fallstead of Desert Moon Communications of Las Cruces.

Most buy-backs ranged from \$3 to \$5, but some enterprising children earned as much as \$12. Some of the children made their donations and politely refused to accept the money.

Total amount of candy collected came to 1,000 pounds.

The candy will be sent to Operation Gratitude, an organization that will package and ship the candy to troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.



Las Cruces dentist Dr. Brian Gilbert and some of the children who brought their candy to his November 2, 2009 Halloween candy buy-back program. Photos courtesy of Cheryl Fallstead, Desert Moon Communications.

“The troops will be able to enjoy the treat but they also will be able to distribute the candy to children and others to help the build friendship and peace,” said Dr. Gilbert.

Besides donating the candy, many of the children wrote messages and drew pictures on cards that will be sent to troops. Some of the children handed their messages personally to Marine Staff Sergeant Alejandro Montez, who was representing the troops.

Fallstead said about 50 children came to the candy buy-back event. And, one teacher brought about 30 pounds of candy collected in school.

Contact Fallstead at cfallstead@hotmail.com.

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Dr. Gilbert, some of the children who sold back their candy and their parents and family members, along with U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Alejandro Montez.