

Empty Stocking Fund: CPCD helps grandparents after influx of five children

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By Ellie Cole Special to The Gazette - • Updated: December 21, 2014 at 7:15 am • 0

This is one of a series of stories about the nonprofit agencies that receive money from The Gazette/El Pomar Foundation Empty Stocking Fund campaign that runs through the holidays.

At 67, Kathen Caddy and his fiancée never expected to provide and care for five children from ages 4 to 10.

But when his fiancée's daughter was jailed and then recently sentenced to 10 years in prison, that's what happened.

"My whole retired life has changed," Caddy said.

Caddy and his fiancée had watched the children often before their mother went to jail, so the children were close with them and it was natural for Caddy and his fiancée to take the children in when their mother was arrested. School had started, so Caddy went to CPCD to see what he could do.

CPCD, formerly called Community Partnership for Child Development, provides more than 2,000 children in need with an early childhood education. It collaborates with the community to provide programs to serve children and their families.

Caddy said the three youngest children quickly began Head Start, and he and his fiancée were able to take classes through CPCD on finances and rearing children. Additionally, they signed the children up for programs such as cooking and ballet classes.

This year, their family was selected to be part of CPCD's Adopt a Family program where community members anonymously support a family in need during the holidays.

"These people have been great to us," Caddy said. Financially, it would've been hard to get Christmas presents for the five children when he needed to feed and clothe them.

Caddy said all five children have benefited from CPCD through presents, school and the Head Start programs.

"If I ever win the lottery, I'll donate it to this place because I love it," Caddy said.

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