News...



From the Office of State Representative La Shawn K. Ford

For Immediate Release:

December 8, 2011

For More Information: State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (773) 378-5902

Rep. Ford Partners with Weinstein Meats and Gusto Packing to Provide More than 500 Gifts at George Leland Elementary School

CHICAGO, IL – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) is commending the generosity of two companies, Weinstein Meats and Gusto Packing, both of which will be partnering with him to provide more than 500 gifts to the students of George Leland Elementary School on December 15.

"Everyone at Weinstein Wholesales Meats, Heartland Steaks, Perishable Distribution Solutions and our vendor partners at Gusto Packing feel very fortunate that we are able to help make the holidays a little nicer for other members of our community," said Scott Weinstein. "We realize the need in the community is large and by ourselves we can only hope to make a small difference," continued Weinstein. "I would like to thank Representative Ford for his help in connecting us with Leland school and allowing us to help celebrate the holidays with them."

"Austin is one of the communities hardest hit by unemployment and foreclosure, and families are struggling to make ends meet and provide the basic everyday necessities that every family deserves," Ford said. "This time of year adds pressures to families that are barely able to pay for food and utilities, and this partnership is a great example how the public and private sectors can work together to provide relief that benefits everyone. I thank Dr. Lawrence for reaching out to me to help meet the needs of her school, and I look forward to continue building public and private relationships for the entire Eighth district."

Rep. Ford, Weinstein Meats, and Gusto Packing are teaming up to provide all students of Leland Elementary School with a smoked ham and three holiday gifts. Because not every student at Leland Elementary is needy, Rep. Ford is urging any family that appreciates, but does not need the Christmas gifts, to pay it forward and donate them to a local food pantry or children's charity.

"Due to limited resources, many of the students and their families cannot afford gifts during the Christmas holiday," said Dr. Loretta Brown-Lawrence, Principal of Leland Elementary School. "The generosity of Representative Ford and Weinstein Meats is greatly appreciated."

Leland Elementary School is located at 5221 West Congress Parkway, Chicago. For more information or to make media arrangements, please call Rep. Ford's constituent service office at (773) 378-5902, or Dr. Brown-Lawrence at (773) 534-6340.