Truscott students spread cheer through carols at Loveland assisted living center

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Though it's considered the "most wonderful time of the year" by many, the holidays can be a difficult and lonely time for those living in assisted living facilities.

On Monday, however, spirits were turned merry and bright at one such local center, The Courtyard of Loveland Assisted Living.
Members of the student leadership program at Truscott Elementary School spread holiday cheer through the halls of the assisted living center by singing a variety of Christmas carols during a visit there.

The students first sang several holiday classics, including "Frosty the Snowman" and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" to a small group of the facility's residents that had gathered in a common room before taking their songs to the halls where they reached several more residents who either opened their room doors or came out into the hallways.

While in the halls, the kids also pulled smaller groups of residents together to read "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" to them.

"It's terrific and very exciting," said resident Sharon Bernia, who carried a Christmas bell she rang while the children sang. "It's fun just to have kids here. And they are taking it seriously."

The students, for their part, said they were having plenty of fun of their own.

"I felt happy because we are helping spread cheer," said second-grade student Levi Daly while enjoying some cookies with the residents after the singing was finished.

"I thought we brought joy to a lot of people and it was fun for us to sing to people," said third-grader Camden Carpenter.

Truscott teacher Jennifer Nichols, who is one of the faculty leaders of the leadership program, said the visit provided the students an important chance to experience first-hand the joy of giving back to their community.

"We are trying to teach the kids to be good citizens in the community," she said. "We feel like in student leadership teaching them about giving back and helping others is important because those are just good attributes we want them to have."

It was an act that was well-appreciated by the center's residents and staff.

"It just means so much because music really is such a cheerful thing for them, and if I've got kids with the music, that's a bonus," said Carol Jones, the activities coordinator at The Courtyard. "They really brighten even the saddest of the people here. This is a sad time for some of them because they are not home and they miss that, so the more joy we can bring them the better."

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