



January 2008

The Natomas Schools Foundation closed out the year 2007 with lots of grateful donations from our Business Community. On December 14th, 2007, during our regular school board meeting, our wonderful Natomas Business community created a Santa Parade. One by one they walked up to our HOSTS students and the Foundation Board, and donated check upon check for the HOSTS Program. So many businesses came, we never got a full count, as they deposited their hard earned money into the donation basket.

"It was so unbelievable, just like a Santa Parade" said Lisa Rojas the Executive Director of the Natomas Schools Foundation." I was so touched that these businesses all came out to help us. These businesses are the backbone of our community, they want to help us but they don't have time to mentor, they must run their own stores, restaurants, and agencies. They employ our students and parents in these businesses, but don't make enough to make large contributions, to their favorite charities, But here they are during their dinner rush, standing in line, one by one donating. We are so appreciative. What a wonderful community we have here in Natomas." As each business came up to the podium they were announced, and received a warm round of applause. Afterwards they were invited to have homemade cookies, made by the foundation board and hot chocolate and coffee, donated by It's A Grind.

Also on December 5th, the Natomas Schools Foundation held a welcome reception for the Natomas School Board Members. A chance for both board to met each other and discuss future goals. They dined on an array of delicious dinner item catered by Bella Bru. It was informal meeting, just enough to meet and greet. December was a very active month for the foundation.

A New Year, starts a new grading semester in our schools, which brings in more students to our HOSTS program. As always we are looking for more mentors, to help for 1 hour a week in any school. Becoming a mentor is so fulfilling for both the student and mentor. Please sign up today and contact the school of your choice. A BIG Thank you to all of businesses, mentors, and students, we are making a difference as we all look forward to another successful year.