

Meridian Waste & Shotwell Landfill Help to Provide Easter Baskets for East Wake County Preschoolers

RALEIGH, N.C. (April 2, 2021) – <u>Meridian Waste</u> North Carolina, an integrated, non-hazardous solid waste services company, has donated Easter baskets for preschoolers in a drive-thru event in partnership with the East Wake Education Foundation (EWEF) earlier today.

The EWEF is a non-profit education program serving Eastern Wake County, NC. The EWEF advocates for area schools and focuses on early childhood development with free services and activities that include children and their parents or guardians.

"We believe early childhood education is essential for the successful development and involvement of children and families in East Wake County. During the past year, non-profit organizations like the EWEF have been fulfilling the needs of our community through services such as education, food pantries, and other programs," said Shannon White, Executive Director of the EWEF. "While we've been able to maintain relationships with some of the families that we serve given the global pandemic, some families have not been able to participate," she said. "Through the Easter basket program, we're able to warmly invite the families back into the EWEF fold to reignite their participation, especially since we have gone back to classroom learning on March 2."

Through the drive-thru event, 48 families enjoyed Easter baskets and were reunited with their EWEF support staff.

"Meridian Waste is proud to support children, families, and specifically this incredible non-profit organization in East Wake which is home to our Shotwell C&D Landfill," said Meridian Waste Area President Josh Daher. "We are a family-oriented company and believe in supporting early childhood education to help ensure our children have bright futures and that parents have the resources they need for success."

The EWEF provides education and family engagement services for infants through age eight, inclusive of parents, grandparents and caretakers. Activities work to improve listening skills, following directions, socialization, along with developing gross and fine motor skills. All activities and practices learned are encouraged to be carried out in the home. Services are free and supported by community donations and grants.

Photo 1 -Brooke Atkins, EWEF Program Director, greeting families and distributing the Meridian Waste Easter Baskets to the drive-thru line.



Photo 2 - Assembled Easter Baskets ready for distribution to the 48 children participating in the EWEF programs.



Photos 3, 4, & 5- EWEF participants receiving their Easter Baskets.





About Meridian Waste

Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Meridian Waste is a company defined by its commitment to servicing its customers, caring for and engaging its employees, and generating financial value for its shareholders while delivering a clean and healthy community. The company's core waste business is centered on residential, commercial, and industrial non-hazardous waste collection and disposal. Currently, the company operates in Northeast Fla., Augusta, Ga., St. Louis, Mo., Raleigh, N.C., Greenville, S.C., Knoxville, Tenn., Blacksburg, Va., Harrisonburg, Va, and Richmond, Va. servicing more than 129,905 residential, commercial, industrial, and governmental customers. In addition to a fleet of commercial, residential, and roll-off trucks, the company operates 11 hauling companies, seven transfer stations/materials recycling facilities (MRFs), three municipal solid waste landfills, and three C&D landfills in which 907,756 tons of waste are safely disposed of annually. For more information, visit <u>MeridianWaste.com</u>.