Ducks stars take kids under their wings

BY KATHLEEN LUPPI

The Anaheim Ducks hockey player braced himself before entering largely unfamiliar territory.

Chris Stewart, a Ducks’ forward, slowly rolled his shopping cart to the toy section of Target at the Irvine Spectrum Center and stared at shelves brimming with pink boxes showcasing Barbie dolls.

"Do you see anything you’d like?" Stewart asked Elizabeth Quintanilla of Santa Ana.

Elizabeth, 12, plopped a shimmery-dressed doll into the basket for her younger sister and thought about presents for the rest of her nine siblings.

It didn’t take long for the seventh-grader to spend her $250 gift certificate during the Anaheim Ducks’ eighth annual shopping spree for low-income youngsters enrolled at The Wooden Floor, an arts-based youth development nonprofit in Santa Ana.

"I’m really excited," Elizabeth said. "Not a lot of people get this advantage."

Stewart and other eight Ducks players were matched with 24 kids Monday night for an outing that the professional athletes hoped would make a difference in the lives of the children.

"We really try to instill in our students that life is abundant and to dream big," said Stewart, who has six brothers and sisters.

"For me, I come from a big family too, and to give back, it’s just all about the kids," said Stewart, who has six brothers and sisters.

"We’ll get you whatever you want and make sure it happens," Silfverberg said as he reached for a football. "Let’s get a hat too."

Many of the children requested necessities, like socks, T-shirts and school supplies.

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