



Kids from the MTA's Child Care Center donated gifts.

Hey, Santa!

Look What MTA Employees did for the Skid Row Kids at Fred Jordan Mission



(Dec 14) It was a sight that would have impressed even Santa Claus: A mound of 105 bags stuffed with Christmas gifts contributed by MTA employees. One-by-one, Tuesday morning, they were handed aboard a Metro Bus parked in front of MTA Headquarters.

MTA Gift Drive coordinator Bessie Rush-Johnson, left, with Mrs. Willie Jordan of the Fred Jordan Missions

"The gifts provided by the MTA are of the best quality," said an elated Willie Jordan, president of the Fred Jordan Missions and wife of the late founder.

"We count on them as the main gifts for the Skid Row Kids."

3,500 gifts for kids



The 3,500 balls, dolls, toy cars, electric trains, blankets, games and other gifts collected over the past month by the MTA were rivaled in number only by donations from employees at the Walt Disney Co., Jordan said.

Ray Inge, executive officer, Human Resources, helps a Fred Jordan Missions employee load gifts on a Metro Bus.

"The number and quality of gifts has improved every year since we started the Gift Giving Drive in 1996," coordinator Bessie Rush-Johnson agreed. "Everyone who contributed at Headquarters and in the operating divisions this year has been very generous."

Some 12,000 children with their parents are expected at 9 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 19, at the Fred Jordan Mission on Towne Avenue in Los Angeles to receive free gifts collected by MTA and the 70-plus organizations cooperating with the charity this year.

Involved with the community

"We work with the Fred Jordan Missions because the organization is so closely involved with the community," Rush-Johnson said.



As she spoke, children from the MTA's Child Care Center trooped to the Plaza with armloads of toys. Somewhat wistfully, perhaps, they dropped the gifts into bags for the Skid Row Kids. Then, to cheer everyone up, they sang "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer."

A teddy bear donated by a child from the MTA's Child Care Center goes into a bag for the Skid Row Kids.

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