



Willie Jordan announces bountiful holiday cheer for the Fred Jordan Mission's Skid Row Kids in scenes from MTA gift drive.



Above, organizers celebrate success, from left, Willie Jordan, MTA Drive Chair Bessie Rush-Johnson, Human Resources Executive Officer Ray Inge and HR Director Naomi Nightingale, and executive vice president of Fred Jordan Mission.

Santa Shoulders 5,000 Toys in MTA's Drive for Skid Row Kids

(Dec. 12) Santa Claus struck a rich vein of gifts for the Fred Jordan Mission's Skid Row Kids when he arrived at the MTA Tuesday morning.

An estimated 5,000 new toys and other items donated by MTA employees were piled high on the Plaza. Even the children from the Child Care Center brought gifts to be added to the total.

Two Metro Bus coaches were required to transport all the gifts to the Mission, located not far from 4th and Alameda in Los Angeles. The agency's drive ranks with that of the Disney Company as the Mission's largest, according to Willie Jordan, widow of the late founder.

"I want to thank all employees for their support of this year's Gift Giving Drive," said Drive Chair Bessie Rush-Johnson, who noted that gifts came from employees at Headquarters, the RRC and every operating division. "Without them, we couldn't have done this."

MTA employees and family members will help distribute the gifts to the 12,000 to 15,000 kids who will gather at the Mission on Sunday, Dec. 17, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Each child will receive three gifts - a "major" toy and two lesser ones, Jordan explained.

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