

[Back to "A very MTA Holiday"](#)

- [Gateway Division 10](#) Launches Toy Drive for Children at USC County Hospital Cancer Ward
- [Venice Division Fund](#) Helps fill Santa's Bag in local "Toys for Tots" Campaign

By JENNIFER YEH

**MOMENTS** - Photos by Jim Lukens capture the spirit of Division 10's gift to the children of County General Hospital. [SLIDE SHOW](#)

[<Use your browser's "<Back" button to return to article>](#)



Photo by Johnny Rios

Gateway Division 10 acting TOS Ernie Martinez, acting assistant manager Luis Alcantar, Metro Bus Operator Jerome Williams and TOS Bill Ruiz tally bounty of toys for children at Los Angeles County Children's Hospital.

(Dec. 27 2002) By virtue of first-hand and heartfelt experience, Gateway Division 10 and Venice Division 6 know the value of sharing.

Division 10's first toy drive produced two truck loads of more than 300 toys for some 200 young patients of the Los Angeles County USC Children's Hospital Cancer Ward.

On Christmas Eve, Santa Claus, played by acting TOS Ernest Martinez, and his helpers took the holiday-decorated bus to the hospital and delivered the toys one by one to many joyful recipients.

The toy drive was inspired by the Transportation and Maintenance employees. Organizers of the event included Assistant Manager Luis Alcantar, Transportation Operation Supervisors Frances Alford, Ernie Martinez, Helen Jackson, and Bus Operator Allen Dade.

"The drive generated hundreds of toys," said Martinez. "The response from employees at Division 10 was overwhelming. They really let the holiday spirit enter their hearts."

Division 10 hopes to make the holiday toy drive an annual event, said Martinez.

### Venice Division Fund Helps fill Santa's Bag in local "Toys for Tots" Campaign

The maintenance employees at Venice Division 6 found a new way to share the holiday joy.

With the money earned from winning the "How You Doin'?" and Maintenance Division of the Year award, the first shift at Division 6 proposed using the proceeds to buy toys to donate to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

The effort was coordinated by Edgar Triay, a Maintenance General Clerk who put together the funds, set up the charity and purchased all the toys.

A total of 50 toys were delivered on Christmas Eve to Fire Station 63 in Venice for the "Toys for Tots" program.

Organizers of "Toys for Tots" collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.



Mechanic Eddie Peterson, right, helps deliver toys to Fire Station 63 Captain Steve Norris. The toys were distributed to local children through the "Toys for Tots" campaign.

[Back to "A very MTA Holiday"](#)