

CEO Roger Snoble, Chief of Staff Maria Guerra, front row, and Deputy CEO John Catoe, back row, right, sign up for MTA Holiday Gift Giving. The Gift Giving Task Force, coordinated by Bessie Rush-Johnson, at left, includes 30 MTA employees who have volunteered to collect and distribute gifts to Skid Row kids this holiday season. PHOTO: LISA HUYNH



The Gift that Keeps on Giving

By LISA HUYNH

(Nov. 21, 2003) The Task Force for the 8th annual Fred Jordan Missions holiday Gift Giving Drive is working on a new goal this holiday season – to collect 9,000 gifts for needy families.

The Task Force, which includes about 30 volunteers from MTA, seeks donations of new, unwrapped gifts that can include blankets, toy cars and dolls, stuffed animals, games, back packs and canned goods.

Bessie Rush-Johnson has been coordinating the toy drive for eight years.

"MTA has been real supportive of me doing this each year," says Bessie Rush-Johnson. "I love doing this. Just knowing that I've helped someone is enough for me. It's the joy of giving back to the community that keeps me going."

Employees who have not picked up their holiday gift tags can do so by visiting the Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department on the 13th floor of the Gateway building. Employees can drop off the gifts to the coordinators by Thursday, Dec. 11 at 12:30 p.m.

Gift Drive coordinators will visit MTA operating divisions that don't conduct their own toy drives beginning Nov. 24 to distribute gift tags. The gifts must be attached to the unwrapped gift.



Mark your calendar:

Employees can sign up now and pick up a holiday gift tag in the Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department on the 13th floor of the Gateway building. Employees have until 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11, to drop off gifts to the coordinators.

The gifts will be delivered to the Fred Jordan Mission in downtown Los Angeles on Friday, Dec.12, at 10 a.m.

The Task Force is seeking volunteers to distribute gifts on Sunday, Dec. 21, and work crowd control at the mission. The shifts are from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. For those who are interested, please contact Bessie Rush-Johnson at (213) 922-2629.

"The toy drive is a real fun thing that we do every year, says CEO Roger Snoble. "It's rewarding to give back. This event is real special for us and we're very happy to be a part of it."

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