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Metro Bus operators Rosalia Medina, Daniel Batlle and Juan Augspurger braved the rain to provide a bus for the holiday parade.

PHOTO: ELIZABETH ARMIJO-HOLBROOK



## San Gabriel Valley Employees Spread Holiday Cheer in Parade

By ELIZABETH ARMIJO-HOLBROOK

(Dec. 8, 2004) A little rain wasn't enough to dampen the spirits of San Gabriel Valley Division Advisory Committee (DAC) members who participated in the 60th Annual Northeast Los Angeles Holiday Parade on Sunday, Dec. 5.

Despite the wet weather, many enthusiastic spectators lined the street as North Los Angeles Division 3 Operator Daniel Batlle drove a festive Metro Bus slowly down Figueroa Boulevard.

Joining Batlle on the bus, was San Gabriel Valley Division 9 Operator Juan Augspurger, his friend Gloria, and Division 3 Operator Rosalia Medina, whose children pitched in to get the bus ready on time.

Medina and Mechanic Louis Peralta coordinated the decorations with help from Service Attendant Marlon Garcia and Mechanic Frank Espinosa, who provided his artistic talents to create the holiday scenes painted on the bus.

## Parade's a tradition

The parade has become a tradition for San Gabriel Valley DAC members, who enjoy the holiday cheer expressed by the crowds.

In addition to the traditional parade entries, this year's participants included a Santa on stilts, a pink elephant float by the Trash Band as well as other offbeat characters.

Asked what motivates him to volunteer for the parade every year, Augspurger answered, "It's fun to see so many happy people."