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## Need e-Help?

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L.A. City firefighters were on hand to help collect toys and load them into a Metro Bus.



## Metro Helps Firefighters, KABC 'Stuff a Bus' with Toys for Needy Kids

By ERIC RAPP

(Dec. 17, 2004) Metro buses have carried all kinds of cargo, but on Friday, Dec. 10, one bus became a 40-foot, orange colored Santa's sleigh, filled with joy for kids across Southern California who will be helped by the "Spark of Love" toy drive.

The drive is sponsored by fire departments throughout the Southland, including the Los Angeles City Fire Department. Radio and TV stations also participate.

Last year, the toy drive collected more than 500,000 toys and distribute them to needy children.

Last week, it was Metro's turn to help, working with KABC-7 weatherman Garth Kemp to "Stuff a Bus."

## Toys and games

From 5 a.m. until noon, a Metro Bus provided by East Valley Division 15 was parked at Westfield Shoppingtown Fashion

PHOTOS BY ERIC RAPP



Football players from Notre Dame High School dropped by to donate toys to the "Spark of Love" toy drive.

Square in Sherman Oaks. Representatives from Mattel stopped by early in the morning to drop off 20 cases of toys and games to start filling the bus.

Throughout the day, kind souls from all over Los Angeles donated toys to fill the bus.

Kemp's live reports from the location several times an hour helped keep the charity coming. Donors ranged from a group of cheerleaders and football players from a local high school to one young girl who had saved her allowance for months to be able to buy toys for the drive.

Finally, at noon, LA City firefighters loaded the last few toys on to the fully-stuffed bus. Operator Eddie Valles closed the door and drove off to the Fire Department's training academy, where the toys are being gathered.

For one day, that bus was carrying truly precious cargo – holiday cheer for kids who really need it.



KABC-Ch. 7 weatherman Garth Kemp does a live report in front of a Metro Bus in Sherman Oaks to promote the "Spark of Love" toy drive.



Division 15 Operator Eddie Valles drove a Metro Bus crammed with toys to the LA City Fire Department's Training Academy.