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Back row from left: OPS supervisors Johnny Rios, Division 9 Transportation Manager Mike Greenwood, OPS supervisors Helen Perez, and Ruben Gonzalez joined DAC members front row from left: Victor Aguilar, Pete Lara and Juan Augspurger in donating toys to the Boys & Girls Club of San Gabriel Valley.



PHOTOS: SHANTAY IOSIA

Metro SGV Celebrates 'Giving Season'

By Shantay Iosia

(Dec. 23, 2004) The San Gabriel Valley Sector hopes to brighten this Christmas for less fortunate families with donations of toys and food.

San Gabriel Valley Division 9 operators Pete Lara, Victor Aguilar and Juan Augspurger began the giving season with a food drive on Dec. 17. They and other members of the Division Advisory Committee collected and donated food to the Valley Community Church.

Although California is the fifth largest economy in the world, USDA ranked California 11th in food insecurity rankings. The survey measured the level of adequate and assured access to food to meet household needs.



Metro gifts: Back row from left: Operators Pete Lara, Juan Augspurger, Program Director Gutowski, OPS supervisor Helen Perez, Transportation Manager Mike Greenwood and Executive Director Clayton Hallopeter, present the children with the toys donated by Metro staff.

Among those in need are the families serviced by the Emergency Resources Association located in the Boys & Girls Club of San Gabriel Valley. About 37 percent of families in the area live below the national poverty level.



Enrique Diaz, equipment maintenance supervisor for Division 9 donates the barrel of toys to the Boys & Girls Club of San Gabriel Valley.



A grateful child receives the toys donated by Metro staff to the Boys & Girls Club of San Gabriel Valley.

The centers executive director, Clayton Hallopeter said they expect to provide holiday meals for about 700 families. The holiday baskets will include canned ham, rice, beans, canned vegetables, tortillas and other foods to accommodate families of 6 or more. The toys will be distributed to families who present the greatest need.

"This wouldn't be possible if we didn't get the donations or the support of the public," Hallopeter said. "I think it's going to be a good year this year. We'll have no trouble meeting the needs of the families."

General Manager Jack Gabig sought to extend the sectors generosity and requested donations for an orphanage in Rosarito, Mexico. The orphanage raises 22 children on \$400 a month. The generosity of the

sector was more than Gabig expected and is sure to make the children's Christmas a little warmer.



General Manager Jack Gabig plans on brightening Christmas with donations to Children's New Life Ranch, an orphanage in Rosarito, Mexico.