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Volunteers with bounty of Metro's 10th Annual Gift Giving Drive

Volunteers Deliver more than 1,000 Gifts for Skid Row Kids

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Dec. 14, 2005) It wasn't Santa's sleigh that landed on the P2 loading dock at Metro Headquarters Monday morning. Instead, it was a delivery truck from the Fred Jordan Mission, here to collect far more than a sleighful of toys from Metro's 10th annual Gift Giving Drive.

Arrayed in ribbons and protective plastic bags, the festive gifts were put there not by elves, but by volunteers who collected more than 1,000 gifts donated by Metro employees in the short span of two weeks.

Tom Jordan, son of the mission's founder, Fred Jordan, and executive vice president of the organization, couldn't have been more delighted by the heartfelt presentation of the dozen or so Metro 'elves' who delivered the presents from the distribution center on the 13th floor.

"The partnership with Metro has made thousands of children happy for the holidays," said Jordan. "This is the 10th year of Metro's gift drive and that makes it very special."



Mission executive Tom Jordan: "Metro has made thousands of children happy for the holidays."

Shaking hands and sharing hugs with volunteers, Jordan said the mission expects 10,000 to 12,000 children to attend the annual holiday

party on Sunday. Several of the Metro volunteers plan to attend and help distribute the gifts.

Gifts included an abundance of suitable items such as blankets, toy cars and dolls, games, pencils and paper, stuffed animals, footballs, soccer balls and basketballs, rain gear, back packs, canned goods and monetary donations.

The annual Gift Giving Drive was coordinated by Tashai Smith and Norfina Joves, both from the Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department. Volunteers who accomplished the many tasks involved include: *

Diane Dominguez *
Barbara McDowell *
Darlene Blake * Connie Rodriguez * Ralph Rodriguez * Raquel Pena *
Margaret Merhoff *
Jacqueline Davidson *
Deborah Bishop * Jeanne Kinsel * Lucille Coleman * Philip Waldman * Tony Martin * Violeta Aguilos * Amy Binh Ly * Linda Perryman * Veronica Hargrove *
Sangeeta Patel * Marie Tervalon * Fe Alcid-Little * Michael Quick * Dolly Turner * Larry Kelsey * Diane Young. *



Tom Jordan thanks coordinators Norfina Joves, at left of Mr. Jordan, and Tashai Smith, right, as volunteer 'elves' load bags of gifts onto delivery truck.