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Annual Gift Giving Drive Begins November 13

- Metro hopes to send 5,000 gifts to Fred Jordan Mission

By NED RACINE

(Nov 9, 2007) The road to thousands of smiling, often overlooked children, begins Nov. 13 as the annual gift-giving drive for the Fred Jordan Mission starts with the distribution of gift tags.

Metro presents its collected gifts to the Fred Jordan Mission for Skid Row Kids on Dec. 10 in front of the Gateway building. The success of that 12th annual event depends on the number of Metro employees who donate an unwrapped toy.

Organizers have a goal of distributing gifts to 5,000 children this year, including more gifts for middle-school children.

To celebrate the event and open house, gift tags will be distributed Nov. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Gateway Building's 3rd floor. Light refreshments will be served. Additional tag distribution days have been added through Nov. 16.

Gift tags also will be available for employees at the Metro Support Services Center (MSSC) and at participating divisions. Gift Giving coordinators at each location will have information about the toy drive. Jim Montoya is the contact at the MSSC and other divisions. Amador Silva is the contact at the Rail Operations Center and the Rail Yards.

Employees can also pick up a gift tag through December 5 at the Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department on the 13th floor. This is also the drop off point for gifts from Nov. 25 through Dec. 7 (no later than 4 p.m.).

In addition to toys, donations of new unwrapped gifts can include blankets, games, backpacks, pencils and paper, soccer balls, basketballs, raingear and even canned goods.

Volunteer are needed to help with distribution of toys, Sunday, Dec 16, at the Fred Jordan Mission. In prior years, toys and food bags were prepared for up to 10,000 children and their parents.

For further information, contact Barbara Thomasson at 922-4526.



