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Managers, assistants and operators surround Guy Black (center, in the hat) and a box of toys donated to the cause, Monday, as Black and his crew broadcast his morning radio program, which is found on 102.3 FM from 6 to 10 a.m.



Photos by Ned Racine

Local Radio Station Makes Visit to Division 18 for Toy Drive

By JIMMY STROUP

(Dec. 12, 2007) In an atmosphere that seemed more like a dance party instead of a working Metro bus division, at least 500 toys were collected in support of "Stevie Wonder's House Full of Toys" charity toy drive, Monday, when Carson Division 18 hosted a remote broadcast of the Guy Black Morning Radio Show.

The promotional visit from 102.3 FM KJLH was arranged by Division 18 Bus Operator Jimi Greene, who's been a major force in the charity since he first heard about the toy drive 11 years ago.

But Jimi "G" – as he's known around the division – doesn't want any credit. He just wants people to bring in toys that will help brighten Christmas for some of the underprivileged children in the Los Angeles area.

"Most of our operators participate in the drives," he said. "Our own kids don't have everything that they want, but they have more than most – and they have more than the kids who are going to get these toys."

Greene thanked the radio station, all the managers who supported the event and the employees at Arthur Winston Division 5 and Division 18 – who he said were the real reason the drive had been successful this year.



Guy Black and his team broadcast their morning show from Division 18, Monday, as part of an effort to get more donations for "Stevie Wonder's House Full of Toys" charity toy drive.

Dancing and laughing

Operators on break mobbed the remote radio show – in a good way – shouting, laughing and dancing along with Guy Black and his morning team. Black broadcast his whole show in Division 18's train room from 6 to 10 a.m.

He even held on-air giveaways for the Guy Black Christmas Party. Bus operators Angela Hardiman and Tracey Alexander won special passes to the event and are on the "Blacklist" with access to celebrity attendees.

Fun aside, Black was on point all morning long, working to get listeners to bring toys to Division 18 for the drive. And they did: the radio show inspired listeners and operators from the division to donate six large boxes of toys the short time they were on the air.

"We're here to help Metro and they've been here to help us," Black said. "These guys have helped us raise money and toys for so long that we decided to try to give them a treat as far as our radio show goes, by coming out here and doing the remote. People have been having a great time."

Early in the show, Black and his staff allowed division members to go on air and "shout out" to their families and friends. The atmosphere was playful all morning – 20 employees even broke into the "Cupid Shuffle" at one point, which is a sort of line dance that accompanies a hip-hop single of the same name.



Arthur Winston Division Transportation Manager Curley Little, South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey, Carson Division 18 Transportation Manager Cindy Karpman, and Division 18 Bus Operator Jimi "G" – who organized the event – were all on hand to lend assistance to the Guy Black Morning Show and the "Stevie Wonder's House Full of Toys" charity toy drive.

And in the end...

Metro South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey was on hand for the event, closing out the event with an impromptu on-air "thank you" to KJLH, the Guy Black show and especially the operators from divisions 5 and 18.

The event was deemed a success by all involved, and at the end, Jimi "G" was grateful for the effort that elicited hundreds more toys for "Stevie Wonder's House Full of Toys."

"I'm really satisfied with what's happened here today. It's been really nice," he said. "I just hope we can keep it going – keep the spirit alive. The season's not over yet."