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From left, back row, Judy Nguyen, Gail Harvey, Alonzo Williams, Lizette Garcia, Matt Raymond and, foreground, Barbara Thomasson, Oscar Ayala and Marco Garcia.

Customer Relations Fills Santa's Bags with 226 Gifts for Skid Row Families

- **UPDATE:** Gift-giving presentation is moved to Wednesday!
- Deadline for gift donations looms: New and unwrapped gifts must be delivered to the Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department (DEOD), thirteenth floor (follow the signs), by 4 p.m. on Thursday. Metro will present all donated gifts to the Fred Jordan Mission on Wednesday at 10 a.m. during a short program on the Transit Plaza. Employees are welcome to come hear Metro Choir as volunteers load Metro buses with bags of toys and other donations for delivery to the Mission.

By GAIL HARVEY
Special to myMetro.net

(Dec. 10, 2008) Customer Relations again accepted the challenge of supporting the overall effort of the Metro Gift-Giving Drive's goal of 5,000 gifts for the Fred Jordan Mission. The department surpassed the original goal of 200 gifts to contribute 226 gifts this year.

Gift coordinators invited the Metro Gift-Giving Drive committee to the Call Center on the second floor to pick up an array of gifts for kids, teens and adults. Coordinators Marie Tervalon, Joja Jones, Tatiana Martinez, Karla Cooper, Nubia Lorenao-Mateo and Pamela Luna had arranged a cheery display of donated gifts, including ladies skirts, men's pant suits, perfumes and colognes, blankets, sleeping bags, dolls, toy trucks and cars and even a skate board.

"This has been a difficult year for everyone, but our staff found it in their hearts to step up and graciously give to others less fortunate," said Gail

Harvey, director, Customer Relations. "It is truly a good feeling to be involved with this project," she said, noting that some 12 employees plan to volunteer for the party at the Fred Jordan Mission Dec. 21 when the gifts are distributed to Skid row families.

Among the gift-givers was Matt Raymond, Chief Communications Officer, who donated a Play-Doh art set and congratulated the Customer Relations staff on the "fantastic accomplishment."