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Chief Elf and CEO Art Leahy met with Holiday Gift Giving Drive task force committee members Susan Dove, foreground, and Veronica Hargrove for a momentum check on Wednesday morning. "We are so fortunate to live here and be able to do this," said CEO Leahy.

Gift-giving generosity begins to fill the Metro stocking for the Fred Jordan Mission Annual Christmas Party for Skid Row kids

(Nov. 19, 2009) Employees were crowding the gift-giving recruiting table this week as organizers were well into filling sign-up sheets with commitments from gift givers for Metro's 14th Annual Holiday Gift Giving Drive benefiting Skid Row Kids at the Fred Jordan Mission.

Employees who wish to participate can pick up a gift tag at a table on the third floor from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. this week. "If you miss us this week, come up to the 13th floor for your gift tag. It's never to late to share your holiday spirit," said Diversity and Economic Opportunity Representative Barbara Thomasson, who is assisting in coordinating this year's drive.

Participating divisions and rail location employees can pick up their tags from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the MSSC, where the contact is Jim Montoya, and at participating rail yards where the contact is Amador Silva.



Diversity and Economic Opportunity DEO Linda Wright signs on the dotted line with elf Jeanette Bell.

Popular gift items include blankets, cars, dolls, sports balls, stuffed animals, backpacks, rain gear and canned goods. Organizers have set a goal of distributing gifts to 30 percent more children this year, including more gifts for middle school-aged children.

All unwrapped items must be delivered to the Diversity and Economic Department on the 13th floor by 4 p.m. on Dec. 11.



Elf Linda Perryman deals the winning hand for the gift drive, enticing the spirited with festive decorations and a tempting bowl of holiday candy.

Once collected, the toys will be loaded onto Metro buses and delivered to the mission on Wednesday, Dec. 16 in preparation for the annual Fred Jordan Mission Christmas Celebration on Dec. 20.

Employees interested in volunteering with a Metro group to help distribute holiday cheer and gifts at the mission's celebration can contact Thomasson at 922-4526.

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