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Video by Rich Morallo. Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pGbtpeRsU4> NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject to the Employee Code of Conduct that generally restricts the use of company time/equipment to conducting Metro business. Please click on icon above to view the video.

Metro Santa at Carson Division Loads Bus with Toys, Gifts for Homeless Shelter in Compton

By Rich Morallo
Volunteer Coordinator and Community Relations Manager

(Dec.24, 2009) "Ho ho ho," bellowed Carson Division 18 mechanic Alfred Diotte, as his 45-foot orange Metro bus stopped in front of the Welfare Right homeless shelter in Compton on Wednesday morning.

Slowly, the facility's children approached the bus. "Some of the children have never seen Santa before," explained shelter program director Bernice LaCour.

But Santa urged them to board the bus where they could choose their own holiday gift among the dozens of toys, dolls and balls in the bus.

"This is our eighth year bringing gifts, toys and some Christmas spirit to the neighborhoods," said mechanic Luis Salas.

Santa's other helpers Ken Matsuno, Johnnie Rodriguez, Traci Hillard and Susan Leos brought down the barrels and bags of gifts and food and delivered them to the shelter.

"Look at the families, they're so happy," exclaimed case manager Sheila Youngblood.

Clutching her toy and peppermint candy stick a small girl whispered, "And thank you Santa for coming here."

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