



NEWS

December 13, 2002

MEDIA ADVISORY

Families were selected by churches and schools

MTA BUS OPERATOR, WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HER FRIENDS, PUTS TOGETHER A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FOR 45 NEEDY FAMILIES

WHAT: Socorro Alvarez-Mitchell, and MTA bus operator for the last 18½ years, will make Christmas a reality for 45 needy families selected by churches and schools in the Lincoln Heights, Highland Park, Cypress Park, El Sereno and other areas. Socorro, a mother of two boys, worked in collaboration with colleagues at MTA North Los Angeles Division for the last four months to come up with \$2,700 for the toys and gifts. She's paying for the luncheon from her own pocket.

"I just can't live thinking that some people are going to spend this Christmas without nothing to celebrate," says Socorro, who starts her route on Line 28 at 5 a.m. every weekday. "I grew up poor and I know what it is like, especially in this holiday season. So I decided to do something. I don't mind paying from my own pocket. I'd rather feel good about something this Christmas."

WHEN: 12 p.m. Saturday, December 14, 2002

WHERE: Wilson High School
4500 Multnomah Street
Lincoln Heights
Los Angeles, CA

THOMAS GUIDE: 635 D-1

WHO: 45 low-income families

VISUALS: Little kids will be receiving and opening toys and gifts to celebrate Christmas. They will have lunch, games and a Christmas play.

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