



Town of Palm Beach United Way

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Town of Palm Beach United Way's annual Toy Drive collects over \$24,000 and hundreds of gifts for children in Palm Beach County

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PALM BEACH, FL – The Town of Palm Beach United Way's 29th Annual Holiday Toy Drive will bring joy to hundreds of underserved children and families throughout Palm Beach County, after collecting over 2,000 toys and \$24,525 in donations.

The drive, which ran November 6 through December 4, received donations from more than 215 individuals, families, community groups and businesses.

"It's remarkable," said Board Chairman Bill Tiefel. "We received more toys than ever before. Our community's holiday spirit was on full display, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated and supported families in need during a difficult year."

A majority of the toys were split evenly between three United Way nonprofit partner agencies: Achievement Centers for Children and Families, Opportunity Early Childhood Education and Family Center, and The Glades Initiative.

Achievement Centers hosts an annual holiday shop and celebration for low income families in the Delray Beach area that need extra support during the holiday season. Using the donated toys, parents can "shop" for their children at no cost. Volunteers help parents wrap the gifts.

"The holidays are an expensive time of year, particularly this year, for so many more families than ever before," said Stephanie Seibel, CEO of Achievement Centers. "Toy donations and our holiday shop are critically important for low-wage earning families. It's rewarding to know that we can help families by alleviating concerns of how they will be able to afford gifts, and it is equally rewarding to see the support of so many generous people."

Palm Beach fire stations, Field of Greens, Findlay Galleries and the United Way office served as drop off locations.

"We are honored to participate in the Town of Palm Beach United Way Toy Drive," said Assistant Fire Rescue Chief Sean Baker, who's also a trustee of the United Way. "It's a heartwarming sight to see the fire station lobby full of toys. Service to others is what we're all about, and it's especially important for families in need during the holidays."

This year's toy drive received so much support from the Palm Beach community that the United Way was also able to donate toys to nonprofit partners Catholic Charities, The Lord's Place and Farmworker Coordinating Council.

The \$24,525 in cash donations was divided between the following 18 United Way nonprofit partner agencies located throughout Palm Beach County from Boca Raton to Jupiter to Belle Glade: Achievement Centers for Children and Families, Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, American Association of Caregiving Youth, Catholic Charities, Center for Child Counseling, Families First, Farmworker Coordinating Council, The Glades Initiative, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, HomeSafe, The Lord's Place, Milagro Center, Opportunity Early Childhood Education and Family Center, Project LIFT, Take Stock in Children, Urban League, YMCA of South Palm Beach County, and YWCA.

The 29th Annual Toy Drive was made possible through partners Field of Greens, Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach Daily News and Palm Beach Fire Rescue. A special thank you to First Horizon, Cortland Portofino Place, Palm Beach Flagler Rotary Club, Palm Beach Police and Fire Foundation, Worth Avenue Association, and the numerous community groups, businesses, individuals and families who made this year's drive a huge success.

— end —

ONE COMMUNITY. ONE GOAL.

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