

# the Village TOY DRIVE

Photography by Kimberly Benfield



We had another successful The Village Toy Drive, with over 1400 toys collected! How grateful we are to this wonderful community for getting involved once again and giving!

Involved in collecting and wrapping this year, were over 50 volunteers, including both residents and businesses, helping to get all the presents wrapped and loaded into the VOA vans. From First American State Bank, the gifts were delivered to the VOA offices in Denver, ready to be given out to under-privileged kids the following week.

We would also like to thank the following businesses that kindly donated food and drink to keep the volunteers going through the evening: **Zink Kitchen + Bar, Del Frisco's, Jim 'N Nick's, Firehouse Subs, Dunkin' Donuts and Lukas Liquors.**

Here are a few of the photos taken at the wrapping event held at First American State Bank.



"Bridge Girls Gone Wild" (Left to Right): Carol James, Theresa Dickey, Susan Law, Carol Bertz, Cathy Reith, Char Campbell, Kacie Curd, Sarah Wilkins, Nancy Panasci, Diane Curd, Mary Harrison, Sharon Moulton, Jody Nycum, Maureen Hendricks.



Kingsley Gruber loading up the gifts!



The team from First American State Bank



The Village Toy Drive organizers: Sarah Dennis (The Preserve magazine), Michael James (Volunteers of America), Michelle Gruber (First American State Bank) and Rachel Allnutt (Volunteers of America)



Volunteers from Cherry Hills Village Police Department helped with collecting and wrapping the gifts

## TOY DRIVE REPORT FROM WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

By students Emily Labarre and Dominic Cesario-Scott



From left to right: Talia Wallen, Mia Medina-Peet, Jordan Autry, Syara Gillin, Dominic Cesario-Scott, Brock McHood, Jada Anderson, Mariah Hernandez Vasquez, Mckenzie Moreno



Top row left to right: Shannon Straub, Sofie Albada, Mary Garnsey, Viviana Montoya, Mr. Shane Yamnitz, Samantha Witt and Karen Basavas. Bottom row left to right: Ethan Green, Bryne Knowles, Anna Fischer, Ainsley Davis, Ella Grooters and Avanlee Flaig | Photo by Kimberly Benfield

donate to the cause. To make sure this happened, we arranged for the winning teacher's class in each grade to get a donut party (kindly donated by Dunkin' Donuts). The winner in the overall school would not only get a donut party but a pizza party as well.

With the help from Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Luther, Mr. Yamnitz and Volunteers of America, we had a very successful toy drive. We raised over 700 toys as a school. The winner of the overall school was Mrs. Meyer's sixth grade class. Student council organized all the toys, helping decide which toys would go to certain aged kids.

Also, NJHS (National Junior Honors Society) with the help of Ms. Healy, provided a "Hat Day" for the West Middle School Students. They raised \$1,200! With all of these earnings, our smart honor roll students went on a shopping spree at Target. They bought a bunch of toys for kids of all ages.

After Student Council collected all the toys for the adorable children, we attended a wrapping party at First American State Bank. Everybody that helped wrapped the 700 and more toys in one night.

Meeting in the commons of West Middle School after school one day, the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders organized a toy drive. Their goal was to collect toys from the school and donate them to Volunteers of America through The Village Toy Drive. The student council made posters and videos to advertise the idea around the school. Student Council hoped that the whole school would