

PROJECT SMILE TOY DRIVE DECEMBER 2011



What an amazing outpouring of love, caring and sharing! From November 19 - December 18, "angels" with a child's age/gender were available on the Christmas Tree in Trinity Café. SLBC members picked an "angel" from the tree, purchased a gift for the child, and brought the gift and placed it under the tree with the "angel" attached. **This year, Sugar Land Baptist Church provided Christmas gifts to 508 underprivileged children through the Project SMILE Toy Drive!** That's ALOT of Christmas morning smiles made possible by our wonderful congregation!



Carolyn Tarver (Project SMILE) said, *"It was SO wonderful to have plenty of toys and gift cards, and not to have to worry this year about a shortage of toys or money - everything was great! What a wonderful blessing!"* She was even able to give some extra gift cards and crisp, new \$10 bills to some of the teens to buy clothes. Carolyn said the kids were so grateful – this enabled them to get much needed jackets! She was also able to give some \$10's to a few adults to buy clothes and other extras. And, a "Santa" from The Missouri City Police Department delivered all the donated stuffed bears to patients at Texas Children's and Shriners Hospitals, so each of these children would have a gift as well!



On the Monday before Christmas, nineteen volunteers from SLBC helped sort and organize the gifts in preparation of Tuesday's distribution. Toys were separated by age and type (Barbie's, trucks, board games, etc), and arranged on tables at Bethel. Tables were also set up with gift wrap, bows, scissors, tape, etc - ready for the wrappers!



On Tuesday morning, the parent(s) came and "shopped" for toys for their child(ren). They could then choose to have the toys gift wrapped. Volunteers from SLBC (39 of us!), helped the parents shop, wrapped gifts, and entertained children upstairs with a Christmas movie, crafts, cookies and juice while their parents shopped.



It was a fun and amazing time! Words cannot adequately express the appreciation of the moms and dads, Carolyn Tarver of Project SMILE, Bethel Ministries and SLBC to EVERYONE who participated and helped make this such a special Christmas for so many precious children (and adults!). To everyone who picked an "angel" off the tree, provided funds for gift cards, helped move the toys from the tree in Trinity Cafe to the Sanctuary, helped load the gifts in the trailer and get them over to Bethel, and/or volunteered on Monday and Tuesday, we are all extremely grateful!



In the book, Christmas, It's Not Your Birthday, the author says *"Where we spend our time and money reveals our ultimate values. It is a demonstration of what we truly worship."* You have clearly demonstrated your worship is God-centered. Thank you for the beautiful demonstration of your faith and for everything each of you did to brighten many children's (and adult's) Christmases this year.