

Devereux

COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST

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News & Media

Community's generosity shines brightly in 2016

Port St. Lucie – More than 50 local businesses and community groups coordinated toy drives and collected more than 3,300 gifts for children in foster care, making 2016 one of the most prolific years for toy collection for Devereux Community Based Care.

Among the biggest sponsors in the organization's Making Christmas Bright project were the Guardians for New Futures, which coordinated toy drives for children in Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee counties, and Minton Law PA, which provided three gifts for every teenager in St. Lucie County foster care.

Most of the nearly 1,100 children receiving services from the child-welfare system received 2-3 gifts each, said Christina Kaiser, community relations director for the organization.

"We added several new sponsors in 2016, and we didn't lose any from previous years," Kaiser said. "In fact, we've worked with some groups for more than 15 years, which I think says a lot about the project."

The oldest sponsors include St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and the Retired Educators of St. Lucie County, which began collecting gifts for Making Christmas Bright when the project was still under the umbrella of the local Department of Children and Families.

Groups joining the project this year include the Savannah Club, St. Lucie Gardens, Grove Church, 7th Day Adventist Church, and the Be Our Guest Travel Company.

"We have really loyal people working with us, dedicating the last part of their year to bringing holiday magic into the lives of children who really don't see a lot of magic," Kaiser said.

Other sponsors this year include: Zeta Phi Beta, Lakes of Tradition, Martin Health Systems, Port St. Lucie Presbyterian, Harbor Insurance Agency, Centennial High School HOSA, Florida Community Bank, St. Andrew's Lutheran, La Buona Vita, Tropicana, Devereux CBC,

Treasure Coast Builders Association, Sparemakers Bowling League, Sun Grove Montessori, Port St. Lucie High School JROTC, Pursuit Boats, Solei Salon, Olive Garden Tradition, Berry Fresh, Imagine School, Old Navy Tradition, Clark Advance Learning Center NHS,



Santa pays a visit to the St. Lucie County Foster Parent Association Christmas Party.

Moms of Preschoolers, Lenco Marine and the St. Lucie County School District Transportation Department.



Dependency case managers help unload one of the many truckloads of toys donated

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Contact: Christina Kaiser
(772) 528-0362



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Devereux CBC • 10570 S. Federal Hwy. Port St. Lucie, FL 34952 • (772)873-7800

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