



Town of Palm Beach United Way  
44 Coconut Row, M201  
Palm Beach, FL 33480  
561-655-1919

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## Palm Beach Toy Drive collects hundreds of gifts for Palm Beach County children in need

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Contact: Aleese Kopf, 561-655-1919; [aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org](mailto:aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org)

**PALM BEACH, FL** – The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Palm Beach Toy Drive collected more than 1,500 toys and nearly \$12,000 to benefit Palm Beach County children and families in need of extra support this holiday season.

Each year the Town of Palm Beach United Way partners with the Palm Beach Daily News and Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department to collect toys for children in need. This year's drive began November 18 and ended December 9. Palm Beach residents and employees filled the town's central fire station with piles of toys, including bicycles, sports equipment, board games, trucks, dolls, science kits, books, Lego boxes, arts supplies, Play-Doh, robots, nail polish and so much more.

The toy drive benefits different United Way partner agencies each year. Gifts and donations are divided equally among the charities. This year, the new, unwrapped toys will be distributed to children at Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA), YMCA of The Palm Beaches and YMCA of South Palm Beach County.

The agencies each receive about 500 toys and \$4,000 to distribute to their clients. The YMCAs distribute toys to children of families on financial assistance and AVDA distributes them to children living in shelters whose parents are survivors of domestic violence.

"We are overwhelmed and incredibly grateful to the outpouring of generosity from the Palm Beach community," said Mary Freitas, Board Chairman of the Town of Palm Beach United Way. "These gifts and donations will brighten the holidays for hundreds of children. The Palm Beach spirit of giving is truly amazing."

The Town of Palm Beach United Way gives special thanks to **Jones Foster**, **IberiaBank**, the **Town of Palm Beach** and **Palm Beach Flagler Rotary Club** for making significant toy contributions through employee and member toy drives.

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