



Glenn Shuck, executive director of Labor's Community Service Agency, has been a busy man collecting toys and cash for the 11th annual Presents for Partners Holiday Toy Drive. (ABOVE LEFT). Shuck received several hundred dollars worth of gifts from John Endicott, business manager of Plumbers and Fitters



Local 290. (ABOVE CENTER) He picked up a check for \$1,000 from Union Insurance Agency. Presenting the check is Wilma Abney, who is a member of Bakers Local 364. (ABOVE RIGHT) Local 483 Union Rep Michael Dehner (left) helps Oregon Zoo zookeeper and union shop steward Jeb Barsh



(center), and Alex and Rachael Skelton unload two pallets of Transformer action figures to the cause. Others helping to unload the truck were Union Rep Lonh Holston, office secretary Darlene Marie and the Skelton's daughter, Morgaine.

Labor-sponsored holiday toy drive shaping up to be a big one

The 11th annual Presents for Partners Holiday Toy Drive sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council and Labor's Community Service Agency is shaping up to be a good one.

Cash and toys are pouring in from all over the place, reported Glenn Shuck, executive director of Labor's Community Service Agency. Gifts will be distributed Saturday, Dec. 22, at noon at Genesis Community Center, 5425 NE 27th Ave., off Killingsworth.

On Dec. 7, members and staff of

Laborers Local 483 helped unload two pallets of Transformer action figures.

The toys — 940 in all — were donated by video game retailer Game Crazy. The union hooked up with the store through connections at the Oregon Zoo, where zookeeper and Local 483 steward Jeb Barsh has helped collect items for the toy drive for several years. Barsh was pitching the toy drive to co-workers at the elephant barn. That's where volunteer Rachael Skelton heard about it. It just so happens that Rachael's husband, Alex, works

at Game Crazy, and he had been asked by his boss to find a charity to give some leftover Transformer toys to.

"Unity works in two directions," Barsh said. "It works when bargaining contracts, and it works for the good of the community."

On Dec. 10, Union Insurance Agency presented Labor's Community Service Agency with a check for \$1,000. Union Insurance, which is owned by Alan Gervais, issued a challenge to other businesses with union clientele to "meet or beat" the contribution.

On Dec. 11, Shuck was at the Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 hall where Business Manager John Endicott presented him with several hundred dollars worth of toys.

"This will bring a lot of smiles to a lot of underprivileged kids," Shuck said.

Toy-collecting typically begins in September at the BULL Session Golf Tournament, where participants bring unwrapped gifts for the toy drive.

Saturn of Beaverton also sets out a barrel each holiday season to collect gifts. This year it will contribute more

than 200 toys, Shuck said.

Then, starting around Thanksgiving, unions and businesses start dropping off toys at the labor council and labor agency offices.

"I'm really overwhelmed by the generosity the locals have shown for the toy drive. The need is so great," said Judy O'Connor, executive secretary-treasurer of the the labor council.

O'Connor and NOLC office secretary Judy Devlaeminck went on a shopping spree with the cash donations, paying particular attention to buy U.S.-made and union-made goods.



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