

...Making Spirits Bright

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from a “stocking stuffer” table as carolers sang Christmas songs. Everyone was served a hot lunch, followed by a visit with Santa Claus. Each child received an age appropriate book from Mrs. Claus, then talked to Mr. Elf before heading upstairs to the “Toy Room,” where hundreds of toys, bikes, balls, and gift cards were waiting. But they weren’t done yet! Parents and/or guardians were led to a waiting room as chaperones took kids to the “Parent Room.” There, each child was allowed to select a gift for their mom and dad (or guardian). Those gifts were beautifully wrapped by more volunteers, for parents to unwrap on Christmas morning. All the extra toys and bikes were later donated to nearby charities for distribution. Here is the final tally:

- 300 children, plus 150 more**
- 200 parents**
- 500 hot lunches served**
- 1,500 toys**
- 2 U-haul trucks**
- 120 volunteers**
- 3 dozen unions**
- 13 community sponsors**



Mr. Elf amused children of all ages.

120 volunteers from three dozen union locals and 13 community sponsors helped set up, operate, and tear down the Presents From Partners Holiday Party held Dec. 17 at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 Hall in Northeast Portland.



Each child received a hand-sewn Christmas stocking and their choice of stocking stuffers.



Families had their pick in the “Ball Room.”



Carolers entertained families with Christmas songs.



Hot lunch for 500 kids and adults was provided by Spin Catering and served by union volunteers.

Photos by Michael Gutwig



The IBEW and United Workers Federal Credit Union sponsored a “Parents Room,” where kids got to pick out a gift for their parents/guardians and have them wrapped to put under the Christmas tree at home.



Union Cab provided rides for some families (above left), and Mrs. Claus handed out age-appropriate books to all the kids.

