

PRESENTS FROM PARTNERS

multiple unions come together for a 'A Labor of Love'



Eryn Byram, executive director of Labor's Community Service Agency, and Keith Thomajan of United Way Columbia-Willamette stand in a roomful of donated toys donated by labor unions and their allies. "It really is a labor of love," Byram said.



Over 40 unions and 200 volunteers were involved in this year's Presents from Partners holiday party for families in need. The event was held Dec. 16 at the Sheet Metal Workers Hall in Northeast Portland. Some 350 kids and 200 parents from labor and the community at large enjoyed the day, which featured a hot meal, a visit with Santa Claus, gifts, groceries, and more. Photos on this page share just a glimpse of what the families experienced. Presents from Partners is coordinated by Labor's Community Service Agency.



UFCW Local 555 sponsored a grocery room, which included a bag of groceries, plus a \$50 gift certificate to a union grocer.



PHOTO LEFT: All kids took home a book of their choice. PHOTO RIGHT: IBEW & United Workers Federal Credit Union sponsored a second-hand "Clothes Botique." Donated clothes were available to anyone who wanted them.



ABOVE: Laborers Local 737 housed all the bicycles, which were donated and assembled by ILWU Federal Credit Union employees. BELOW LEFT: IBEW & United Workers Federal Credit Union sponsored a "Parents Room." Kids were able to pick out a gift for their parents or guardians and have them wrapped to put under the Christmas tree at home.



A good portion of the nearly 200 union volunteers gathered for a group photo prior to opening the doors.



American Federation of Teachers retiree Val Jack spent the year crafting 320 stockings to hand out to guests.



Union Cab drove families to and from the event for free. Driver Miles Chase is a member of Communications Workers of America.

