



NEWS RELEASE

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Annual TCBA Toy Drive Brightens Christmas for Treasure Coast Children

PORT ST. LUCIE, FL (January 27, 2005) — Treasure Coast Builders Association members touched many young lives this Christmas. Donations of toys, clothing and other items from TCBA members helped provide a brighter holiday to a portion of the 1,600 children served by the Children's Home Society (CHS) of the Treasure Coast.

Toys and clothing began pouring into the TCBA office after Thanksgiving and the bulk of the donated gifts were collected at the association's annual installation banquet in early December. Some of the donated items included scooters, riding toys, talking cameras, radios, stuffed animals, footballs, basketballs, and assorted games.

"The gifts provided by TCBA were the only Christmas gifts some of our children received at Christmas," explained Karen Gray, Director of Development of the Treasure Coast Division at the Children's Home Society of Florida. "While so many in our area continue to live with strife and chaos as a result of the hurricanes, the generosity of TCBA's membership shows by example that the world can be a bright and better place."

"Our membership was extremely generous this holiday season," stated TCBA Second Vice President Joe Staniewicz. "This marks the association's third year for collecting and distributing toys to the Children's Home Society of the Treasure Coast, which serves children in Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties."

When Karen Gray arrived at the TCBA office to collect the toys, had she not been driving a large van, she would have had to make a second trip. Karen remarked, "The van was packed to the roof!"

"Part of our association's mission is making the Treasure Coast a better place to live," stated TCBA President Dennis Buford. "I think our member's generosity did just that."

The Children's Home Society provides a wide spectrum of social services, including foster care, adoption, child abuse prevention, emergency shelters, a group home, case management, mental health services, an independent living program and treatment for developmentally disabled children. The children served by the Treasure Coast Division of the Society range in age from 0-to-23.

CHS is a nationally accredited agency and has a long and rich legacy as Florida's oldest non-profit provider of services to children and families. In 2002, CHS celebrated its 100 year anniversary. Established in 1902 as a Jacksonville orphanage, CHS has expanded its mission and became a

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statewide multi-service agency, serving nearly 100,000 Florida children and families each year from 204 locations throughout the state.

TREASURE COAST BUILDERS ASSOCIATION is a 1,200-plus member association that represents and protects the interests of the building industry in Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties. Membership is comprised of builders, developers, sub-contractors, suppliers, lenders, architects, realtors, and manufacturers who are dedicated to building stature and respect for the industry in the community. For more information, please visit the TCBA web site at www.treasurecoastba.com.

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