



NEWS RELEASE

Contra Costa County
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Supervisor, District One

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TOY AND COAT DRIVE FOR NORTH RICHMOND A BIG SUCCESS

What: 12 th Annual Verde Elementary School Holiday Coat/Toy Give-Away
Where: School cafeteria 2000 Giaramita Street, N. Richmond
When: Friday, December 18, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

NORTH RICHMOND, Calif., Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia will be helping distribute hundreds of toys and coats to the children at Verde Elementary School.

The annual toy and coat drive, now in its 12th year, is sponsored by Supervisor Gioia with help from City of Richmond staff.

West County residents responded generously to pleas for donations of toys, coats, and money after it was revealed that the holiday drive was getting off to a slower than usual start.

All together, more than 300 toys, 100 coats, and more than \$2000 dollars were raised this year.

“It is heartwarming to see the community response, especially this year,” said Supervisor Gioia, whose district includes unincorporated North Richmond. “The children at Verde Elementary will long remember this kindness. I thank the community for their support.”

Longtime North Richmond resident and local spoken word poet Fred Jackson will again be Santa Claus to help give away the items.

For some students, the toys and coats received at school may be the only gifts they get this year. Families living in North Richmond are considered some of the poorest in Contra Costa County.

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