

Gateway Community Outreach Brings The Holiday Spirit To South Florida Families

By Nicol Jenkins

This holiday season, Gateway Community Outreach will once again bring cheer, toys and food to our local families who are in need of a little extra help.

For 18 years, the mission of Gateway Community Outreach has been to eradicate homelessness by providing services to stabilize the family unit economically while helping them become self-sufficient. This goal continues throughout the holiday season through their Special Touch program, which is designed to meet the extra needs of our community's most needy families during this time of year.

During the month of December, Gateway Community Outreach will deliver a holiday meal with the trimmings, unwrapped toys for toddlers to teenagers, wrapping supplies, gift cards and personal hygiene products to local families. The community is also treated to

holiday festivities. Each year, Gateway has a holiday party and treats the parents and caregivers to food, refreshments, and they can pick out the toys they want to give to their children along with wrapping supplies.

Since the need is growing again this year, the organization is seeking the help of residents to donate toys, gift cards and cash donations for area families. They are asking for donations of unwrapped toys for children from 6 months to 12 years old, and requesting Walmart

or Target gift cards for teens, ages 13 to 17.

donate whether it be an unwrapped toy, canned goods, monetary donations or donating their time as a volunteer," said Carol Ray, President and CEO of Gateway Community Outreach.

Last year, they were able to make the holidays special for approximately 500 children. The staff at Gateway hopes to exceed that goal this year. "Everyone is aware of the economy, and the need is growing. Many parents and individuals are struggling. We want them to be able to provide toys for their children this holiday season," said Ray.

Gateway Community Outreach is located at 291 SE 1st Terrace, Deerfield Beach, 33441. You can drop off unwrapped toys anytime. For more information, call 954-725-8434 or visit their website at www.gcoflorida.org.



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"We are looking for anyone who would like to

