

Toy & Coat Drive for Verde Elementary Needs Help!

What: 14th Annual Toy & Coat Drive for Verde Elementary in North Richmond
Drop-Off Site: Office of Supervisor John Gioia
11780 San Pablo Avenue, Suite D (near Cutting Blvd.), El Cerrito
When: Now until Friday, December 9th

In these tough economic times, many parents are struggling more than ever to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. That's why volunteers are working hard this holiday season to obtain 300 toys and over 100 coats for the children of Verde Elementary School in North Richmond.

The ongoing economic crisis has hit North Richmond, one of the lowest income communities in the state, especially hard. Many families are having a difficult time affording the basics. Some children will get few, if any, holiday gifts this year.

"Over the years, it's been gratifying to see the community come forward and help Verde students with generous donations of toys and coats," said Supervisor John Gioia.

"Those who donate and the kids who receive the gifts get great joy from this event. It brings the community together," said Supervisor Gioia. "We are asking the community to continue the tradition of helping those less fortunate and helping us reach our goal of one toy for every child, and a coat for each child who needs one."

Cash or check donations are especially welcome and tax deductible. All donations must be received by **Friday, December 9th at noon.**

Checks should be made payable to the non-profit **Neighborhood House of North Richmond c/o 2011 Verde Toy and Coat Drive.** Toys must be unwrapped. This year we're asking for NEW light jackets (instead of heavy winter/snow coats) sizes XS to XL. Children will be able to wear these year-round.

The 14th annual Verde Holiday Drive is sponsored by my office and volunteers who work for the City of Richmond. The toys and coats will be distributed at the Verde Holiday Party at the school on the morning of Friday, December 16th.

Thanks in advance for whatever help you can provide.

John Gioia

Supervisor, District One
Contra Costa County
11780 San Pablo Ave. Ste D
El Cerrito, CA 94530
510-374-3231 Phone
510-374-3429 Fax
www.cocobos.org/gioia