

Toy donations down for bureau campaign

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The Burnaby Christmas Bureau is making a public plea for more toy donations as it braces to open its doors to low-income families on Dec. 15.

Volunteer toy room coordinator Pam Bloom estimated toy donations are down a quarter compared to last year.

"For the older kids, I have stock that will last about a day, and I have six days of pickup, which isn't very good," she said.

Bloom doesn't know what will happen if the bureau doesn't get enough toys.

"I don't know. I don't want to know. I think it would be very sad for those kids," she said.

Bloom needs unisex or boys' toys for kids two and under. For the 10 and up category, she needs things like movie passes, remote control cars, complex craft kits (like beading or weaving, for example), portable stereos (the small kind that usually sell for \$25) and makeup kits.

The bureau makes sure local low-income families have food and presents for the holidays. When their Brentwood Town Centre toy room opens, clients can start coming in to pick out one toy for each child in their family, along with some stocking stuffers. They also get one \$25 gift card for food for each family member.

"It's crazy, when the client comes in," Bloom said, adding each one gets an "elf" to help them carry things and pick out toys.

The public can keep bringing in toys right up to Christmas. The toys must be new, in their original packaging and not gift-wrapped.

For more information on how to help, visit www.burnabycommunityconnections.com.

Click on Family and select Burnaby Christmas Bureau.



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For the kids: Christmas Bureau volunteer Pam Bloom checks out the toys with her grandson Joshua Nichol.

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