

'Angels' help spread Christmas cheer

Burnaby Now

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There are a number of businesses helping the Burnaby Christmas Bureau make sure no family goes without toys and food for the holidays.

Reporter Jennifer Moreau caught up with Tara Clark, from Metrotower Office Complex, to chat about what they are doing to help make the season brighter for low-income families.

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Can you kindly introduce yourself?

My name is Tara Clark.

What do you do for work?

I am the administrative assistant for the Metrotower Office Complex. My main duties involve being a liaison for the companies in our office towers, assisting tenants with requests and organizing events.

How do you and your colleagues help the Burnaby Christmas Bureau?

This year, my colleagues and I moved 1,700 square feet of toys from the old Burnaby Christmas Bureau location to the new location at Brentwood mall. We rented a large truck and filled it up with three loads of gifts and shelving.

I know you also help organize an angel project to help collect toys. Can you explain how that works?

We request about 50 posters and 250 cards from the bureau. They send them to us, and we distribute them to our tenants. Near the end of December, we go to each office and collect the hundreds of toy donations, rent a truck and deliver them to the bureau.

Luke Moran, the general manager of the Metrotower Office Complex, and I work together at the towers to ensure that the office tenants are have fun with giving back for the holidays.

What kind of response do you get from all the participating tenants?

Our tenants are very delighted to be involved. They have a lot of fun shopping for the children. The Metrotower Office Complex participates in the angel card program every year. We have over 55 tenants who are happy to donate toys to the program.



CREDIT: Photos by Larry Wright/BURNABY NOW

Christmas spirit: Tara Clark, administrative assistant for the Metrotower Office Complex, is helping to organize an angel project to collect toys for the Burnaby Christmas Bureau.

Is this the first year you've been involved in helping the Christmas Bureau?

We have been involved with this program for the past five years.

Why is it important to help the bureau?

The holidays are about giving back. We are very fortunate to have a great network of companies in our office towers that are capable of donating toys for charity.

What would you say to another company that's considering helping the bureau?

Teamwork is very important to ensure that all of the toys can be collected and delivered in an efficient way. My colleagues and I split into two groups to deliver the angel cards to each office tower.

On the day of toy collection, we split up again but add a few helping hands to deliver the hundreds of toys to the bureau.

Anything else we should know?

Thank you Luke, Deb, Brent, Marc and Kandie for all of your help collecting and delivering the toys.

Angel projects are just one way to help the bureau. For more information, call 604-299-5778 or visit the website at www.burnaby

communityconnections.com, click on Family and select Burnaby Christmas Bureau.

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