



NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gifts from the Heart
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California ISO Employees/Contractors Brighten the Holidays

Gifts for 400 needy kids and seniors picked up today

Story: Even as they cope with a continuing electricity crisis, employees and contractors at the California Independent System Operator collected gifts to distribute to more than 350 children and 50 senior citizens via Sacramento County's "Gifts from the Heart" program. Under the program, foster kids, those waiting to be adopted, kids from troubled homes, and some needy seniors give their "wish lists" to volunteers from the Department of Health and Human Services. The requests are passed on to organizations like the ISO, and then to individual employees and contractors who go shopping for specific items for specific people. This year ISO employees and contractors purchased almost 1,000 gifts for more than 400 people. Volunteers from the Gifts from the Heart program will arrive (via truck, not sleigh) at the ISO to pick up the gift-wrapped presents.

Details: Who: ISO employees and contractors, and volunteers from Gifts from the Heart
What: Loading hundreds of wrapped gifts
Where: California ISO Headquarters, 151 Blue Ravine Road, Folsom California
When: **Today, Tuesday, December 11, 2001 at 1:00 p.m.**

Background: Last year employees and contractors at the California ISO initially gathered gifts for about 90 children. The energy crisis was in full bloom, and many at the ISO were working 16-hour days to keep the power flowing in California. When Gifts from the Heart called just a week before Christmas to say they still had children whose lists had not been filled, the ISO came through with presents and holiday cheer for 200 more recipients. This year, with more power available on the Grid, ISO workers took on a little bit more and have gathered and wrapped presents to help 400 Sacramento County kids and seniors have a happier holiday season. Bikes, toys and books top the kid's lists. The seniors typically ask for more practical gifts of warm clothing or household items.