



Board of Directors

Rick Kvangnes
President

Pam Sorenson
Vice President

Hope Ringstad
Secretary

Mike Dunican
Treasurer



Bryan Allen
Jan Barrow

Silvia Bauman
Angela Camilon

Alison Cline
Pat Eylander

Deb Harvey
Kim Howard

Jane Jacobson
Dawn Jones

Larry Lark
Terry Luton

Sylvia May
Pam McLeod

Rosemary Randall
Sheryl Stefanson

Tom Thetford
Charlotte Wood

Christmas House

P.O. Box 717
Everett, WA 98206
425-338-2273
www.christmas-house.org

Christmas House 2008 Annual Report

December 2008 marked the 28th Christmas House, where families in need from over twenty different cities in Snohomish County selected free holiday gifts for their children at the "Christmas House" department store.

The store opened December 5, 2008 for a three-week period. When the store finally closed on December 20, a record high of over 9,500 children and teens from over 3,300 families had received clothing and gifts (a 14% increase over 2007).

Once again, Christmas House was held at the Everett Boys and Girls Club, a truly perfect facility to host Christmas House. Each morning at 7 a.m., numbers were distributed to the first 170 people to arrive. Some parents waited in line all night to ensure they received a number. Anyone who was unable to wait in line for a number, due to documented medical reasons, was given an appointment.

When their number was called, parents presented pay stubs, birth certificates, medical coupons, along with other proof of income and family size at our new "computerized" registration desk. Once registered, they were escorted through Christmas House by our volunteer host and hostesses.

Parents were invited to select a large gift, small gift, new clothing item, a stuffed animal, mini gift and a stocking hat or warm winter gloves for each child. On average, each child received about \$60 worth of gifts. Parents were also invited to select a household item, a Christmas ornament or wrapping paper, plus a used coat for each member of the household that needed one.

Thanks to the generous donation from City Bank, we were able to purchase and give away over 450 bicycles and tricycles.

Once again, the citizens of Snohomish County met the challenge of helping their neighbors celebrate the holidays. Individuals, families, clubs, churches and businesses all made significant contributions. People generously brought in toys, gifts and money to our donation sites. Throughout the year, we applied for and received foundation donations and received workplace donations through LIC and the United Way. Cash donations exceeded \$150,000.

A very special **Thank You** to all of our volunteers from Snohomish County and beyond. The extreme weather conditions we experienced throughout December, combined with the large increase in families in need, gave us our greatest challenge to date. In spite of the extreme conditions, our volunteers made their way to Christmas House every day. This absolute dedication to service allowed us to remain open and meet our community's needs. The Board of Directors can't thank our 650 volunteers enough. Without every one of them, we could not have met and served the needs of these families. Our volunteers were enthusiastic and warm hearted. Their goodwill touched the hearts of the thousands of people they assisted.

Christmas House is already preparing for an equally challenging 2009. With the continued support of our loyal donors and volunteers, we will continue to meet the challenges and needs of our community.

Sincerely

Richard K. Kvangnes
President