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## Christmas House

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## Christmas House 2007 Annual Report

December 2007 marked the 27<sup>th</sup> Christmas House, and families in need from over 20 different cities in Snohomish County selected free holiday gifts for their children at the "Christmas House" department store.

In 2007, the store opened on December 7th for a three-week period. When the store closed on December 22nd, a record high of over 8,300 children and teens from nearly 2,900 families (a 15% increase over 2006) had received clothing and gifts.

Once again, Christmas House was at the Everett Boys and Girls Club. The Boys and Girls Club is truly a perfect facility to host the Christmas House. Each morning at 7:00 am, numbers were distributed to the first 170 people to arrive. Some families 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 hosts and hostesses.

Parents were invited to select a large gift, small gift, new clothing item, stuffed animal, mini gift and a stocking hat or warm winter gloves for each child. On average, each child received about \$60.00 worth of gifts. Parents were also invited to select a household item, a Christmas ornament or wrapping paper and 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. Thanks to many individuals, local businesses and foundations, cash donations exceeded \$150,000. We had very successful used coat drives and we had a record number available.

Throughout the year, we applied for and received foundation donations and workplace donations. People generously brought in toys, gifts and money to our donation sites. Individuals, families, clubs, churches and businesses all made significant contributions.

Communicating with our donors was made easier thanks to the bulk mailing services provided by PMA Direct Marketing. The Herald and the Silvertips ran print ads promoting Christmas House. Comcast and Wave Media ran cable public service ads. Finally, the Herald donated a full page *Thank You* ad.

Last but not least... a very special **Thank You** to a record number of volunteers (over 650) from Snohomish County and beyond, who continue to show their holiday spirit. They were enthusiastic and warm hearted and their goodwill touched the hearts of the people they assisted.

Christmas House is already preparing for an equally challenging 2008. 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