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Burlington County Times

Holiday season prompts kids to help kids

By: **MARK ZIMMARO**
Burlington County Times

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WESTAMPTON - There is still time to make a difference for struggling families.

Family Service's Holiday Drive is in full swing as the organization is collecting new, unwrapped gifts for children, teens and adults in need of financial support.

Pamela Collins, director of development and communications at Family Service, said local children have been a big part of this year's effort.

"Just last week a young girl encouraged all of her friends to bring new, unwrapped toys for children in need in lieu of gifts on her ninth birthday party," Collins said. "During Thanksgiving, 12-year-old Lane Mayher of Moorestown organized a food drive by collecting door-to-door. It is wonderful to see our younger community members stepping up to get involved."

Robert Joseph, another involved student and a fifth-grader from M.H. Allen Elementary School in Medford, urged residents to contribute.

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"If everyone puts in a little bit and works together, we can all make a big difference," he said.

Family Service will be accepting toys at five drop-off sites through Friday. Residents can bring gifts to four Liberty Bell Bank branches or to the Family Service building on Woodlane Road in Westampton. The banks are on Camden Avenue in Moorestown, North Maple Avenue in Evesham, Union Mill Road in Mount Laurel and Route 70 in Cherry Hill.

Residents looking to make a monetary donation or organize their own toy drive can contact the Family Service Development Office at 609-267-5928. It will provide all the tools necessary to run a donation drive from a home or office.

Contact: mzimmaro@phillyburbs.com or 609-871-8059

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