



Berkeley Staff Assembly and Black Staff and Faculty Organization
2004 Food, Toy and Gift Drive

2004 Accomplishments

Background

The food and toy drive has been an annual event of the Berkeley Staff Assembly (BSA) for more than 15 years. In 2003, BSA partnered for the first time with the Black Staff and Faculty Organization (BSFO) and expanded the drive to include gifts for seniors. This new partnership selected the County of Alameda Social Services and the Alameda County Community Food Bank as primary beneficiaries of campus donations.

BSA and BSFO continued their partnership in 2004 and **this year's drive exceeded all expectations**, thanks to its affiliation with the Campus Charitable Campaign. The additional publicity introduced more campus departments to this activity. Several large campus departments that had previously sponsored individual food drives were delighted to join the Charitable Campaign and leave donation pick-up and transportation to our drivers. Significantly more donations were received this year, providing enough items to share with eight deserving agencies and organizations.

Toys and Gifts

A marvelous menagerie of stuffed animals – more than 200 in all – and almost 400 toys were donated by the campus. Barker Hall and University Hall deserve special acknowledgement for their spectacular generosity. Among their donations were backpacks, an Easy Bake oven, a collector's Barbie doll, a remote-control car – and a microscope that was given to a young Albany Village resident with an avid interest in science!

One hundred young **Social Services clients and group-home residents** attending the annual BSFO holiday party received both a substantial toy and a cuddly stuffed animal. Adding to the fun, Business and Administrative Services shared dozens of shiny silver mylar snowflake balloons from their staff party with BSFO for the children. UCPD donated a camera and film for photos with Santa and Vice Chancellor Harry LeGrande's food service department provided part of the lunch. Twenty-five volunteer "elves" made sure everyone had a great time.

The **UCB Student Parent Association** received 80 toys and 100 stuffed animals that were a hit at their holiday party for 50 children and their parents. **St. Mary's Center** in Oakland received 60 toys and 82 items of new clothing – soft hats, scarves, lap blankets, robes, sweaters and gloves – for their clients. More than 60 similar items of clothing were distributed to **Vale Healthcare** in Richmond, a senior home serving the elderly and disabled.

Stege Elementary School in Richmond received 61 books for their ongoing literacy program. These dedicated teachers have been recognized by the Board of Education for their success in teaching youngsters to read. They couldn't believe that the University had thought to share the donated books with them!

The Prison Ministry Outreach of St. John's Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond received 40 toys and 18 stuffed animals that were given to 22 children in the program

whose parents are incarcerated. In his letter of thanks, Pastor Kevin Hall wrote, “You will never know the joy experienced by our young people when they delivered these gifts to the various families. They reported that it was an overwhelmingly rewarding experience, which you helped to make possible.”

Donations of toys that were “gently used” went to the **UC Student Parents Lounge/Center** in Room 100 Cesar Chavez, a comfortable space on campus where students can visit with their children between classes.

Food

The campus set a new record this year by donating 3,862 pounds of food items to the **Alameda County Community Food Bank**, surpassing last year’s previous record by an astounding 1,567 pounds.

These donations – food, toys and gifts – were collected from all across campus by **Mail Services** over the course of several days in December. **UC Printing Services** stepped in at the last minute and transported boxes and boxes of food to the Oakland warehouse when the Food Bank’s truck was unable to pick up the donations as originally planned.

Prepared by:
Meg Garstang
2004 Drive Coordinator
Kim Guilfoyle
Berkeley Staff Assembly
Ethel Adams and Faye Harris
Black Staff and Faculty Organization