



Wednesday, December 08, 2010

Generous islanders dig deep for Christmas toy appeal

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A Christmas toy appeal received double the expected number of donations thanks to kind-hearted islanders.

The Coalition for the Protection of Children said people's generosity "broke all records" and almost 1,500 toys were collected for needy children.

Sheelagh Cooper, the charity's chairman, said: "We are just delighted with the support.

"We expected we might have difficulty reaching our goal but it is double what we expected.

"Companies, individuals and schools have been very generous. We have 300 families that we see on a regular basis who are on or below the poverty line and Santa gives each child a gift at our annual Christmas Party.

"The remaining toys will be taken to the Sunshine League, foster children and various other places where children who have challenges find themselves."

The Tots For Toys appeal — now in its eighth year — was headed by Coldwell Banker Bermuda Realty, which collected the toys at its offices in Par-la-Ville Road, Hamilton.

The charity scheme was coordinated by staff members Kim Webb and Stephanie Robinson.

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Toys for tots: The team at Coldwell Banker bag up the almost 1,500 toys collected for needy children. The

Coalition for the Protection of Children will distribute them. **Photo by Kageaki Smith*