

# The Children's Hope Chest Gift of Giving



**The Children's Hope Chest volunteers loading holiday gifts to be delivered to local children.**



**Mothers at the Carver Center in Port Chester collecting their children's holiday gifts.**

The Children's Hope Chest, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children and families in need or crisis, just completed a very successful Hope for the Holidays 2006 campaign. Thanks to their extraordinary efforts, 1470 children who made a wish this holiday season will have their wish fulfilled. This grassroots organization recruited and organized hundreds of donors and thousand of gifts so that children in need will know that someone cares and that they have not been forgotten.

"It is wonderful that there are so many families in the holiday spirit who are eager to take on the role of a holiday helper to children in need. Our mission has grown tremendously over the past 2 years, and in 2006 we are proud that we could reach out to hundreds of families. It is uplifting that so many families in our area have taken the time to search the stores or on-line to fulfill a child's specific wish," explained Val Sprague, Co-President of The Children's Hope Chest.

The goodwill abounded from hundreds of volunteers, including many children who spent a portion of their week divided into teams in order to complete the enormous task of delivering thousands of

wrapped and labeled presents in time for the holidays.

Although The Children's Hope Chest touches many children that they will never meet personally, many of the amazing stories of their work do get shared. One such story is a mother at the Carver Center in Port Chester, who fell to her knees with relief and happiness when she saw the gifts for her children. "The gratitude on her face will ring in my heart long after the holidays" reported one volunteer. Involving the children of the donors is one of the key missions that The Children's Hope Chest hopes to achieve. "Under our guidance, we hope to instill in our children the value of helping others, and we hope this value will carry on throughout their teenage and adult life", explained Rosemary Cordasco, Co-President of The Children's Hope Chest.

Another mission of The Children's Hope Chest is to give hope and help lift families in despair. As another volunteer summarized so well, The Children's Hope Chest believes that "hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible." The Children's Hope Chest has made a difference for so many in need during the holiday and throughout the year.