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# Kevin Garcia Foundation

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## Kevin's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Drive

Our most heartfelt gratitude to all of our supporters! Nearly 500 children from our community received your generous gifts with sincere appreciation and joy.

For our first newsletter, we invite you to view a snapshot of the season—from stories and photos of the children to a behind-the-scenes look at the individuals who make our mission a success every year. We hope our newsletter continues to inspire and spread love beyond the holidays and throughout the year.

### Sponsors Thank You!

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DJ Fiallo



## Kevin's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Drive Party

December 6, 2014

Kevin's Toy Drive officially kicked off at Calamari Restaurant on December 6.

Our board members (left to right): Carolina Diago, Hector Santana, David Garcia, Maria & Carlos Fiallo, Jeannette Conrado, Dayton Blanco, Jillian Lopez, Jayme & Brian Garcia.



Our first toy drive brought us together to honor, remember and share the love Kevin's presence brought. Now, six years later, Kevin's spirit continues to unite us to continue and spread his love.

Above are some of the Charles Flanagan High School Swim & Water Polo Team Alumni (2008). Kevin's family forever!

Every year—since the beginning—the Lopez family has donated bicycles to patients undergoing chemotherapy at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.

*"The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt."*

— Frederick Buechner





## HOLIDAY PARTY FOR THE CHILDREN OF RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Our first toy delivery was December 10, 2014 to Jackson Memorial Hospital, for the children of Ronald McDonald House in Miami. The Holiday Party was hosted by IKF \* Wonderfund. The children enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared and donated by local restaurants while receiving gifts from the Kevin Garcia Foundation.

The evening was full of face painting, Christmas caroling, dancing and snapshots at the photo booth. For the grand finale, Santa Claus arrived and spent time with each child and gave them their gifts!

\* International Kids Fund (Wonderfund) is a program of Jackson Health Foundation that seeks to provide lifesaving or life changing medical care to children in need. This includes international children who cannot be treated within their native country, as well as children living in the United States who, without the assistance of International Kids Fund (Wonderfund), have no options for treatment. The fund ensures these children receive the best care possible at Holtz Children's Hospital of the University Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center, one of the nation's premier teaching hospitals.



## Golden Angel

On May 14, 2013 the Kevin Garcia Foundation was honored as a member of the Golden Angel Society of the Jackson Memorial Foundation.

Jackson Memorial Foundation's fundraising efforts allow **Jackson Health System** to provide life-saving medical care to those in financial need, improve health care delivery and promote wellness and preventative medicine.

Established in 1991, the foundation is governed by a 35-member volunteer Board of Directors committed to philanthropic activities that benefit Jackson Health System. The IKF Wonderfund is one of the programs that operate under the Jackson Memorial Foundation.

## Collection Pick Up Days...



Gifts were picked up throughout the month of December from Homestead to Cooper City.



Four organizations, seven schools, ten businesses, and 200+ individuals gave a gift of happiness this holiday season, for children in our community that are faced with the challenges of overcoming health and economic issues.



## Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Outpatient

December 22 & Christmas Day 2014

The kids receiving chemotherapy treatment get to spend their day with Santa Claus while waiting for visits to doctors and nurses. The Dependonus nonprofit organization has visited the patients of Joe DiMaggio for 14 years, making the children's wishes their first priority!



Since our initial toy drive, the Kevin Garcia Foundation has partnered with the Dependonus Foundation, to combine our efforts collecting toys for the patients (and siblings) of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital & Outpatient Center.

## Centro Mater West

January 7, 2015

Our last official event for the holiday season was 3 Kings Day at Centro Mater West. Centro Mater West provides day care services low income families in our community. Currently, 95% of the families whose children attend Centro Mater, are below poverty level income.

### Centro Mater Foundation's Mission:

Centro Mater embraces the concept that love for the children brings hope for the future. Centro Mater's core mission remains the same today as when it was defined first 45 years ago: "To provide quality services to disadvantaged children by offering developmentally appropriate experiences conducive to enhancing the child's potential while empowering and strengthening the families."



## Volunteer Angels

Our toy drive was a spectacular success due to our volunteers' countless hours of dedicated love! Web Redesign: Mauro Perez (picture unavailable) Scribe: Leticia Perez (picture unavailable); Music: DJ Nicole Fiallo, Registration: Steven Vidal, Emily Dolce, & Gaby Gonzalez; Ornament design: Natalie Lange; Newsletter Contributors: Jennifer Tavarez & Carolyn Duffin (picture unavailable); Toy sorting & packaging: Charlie, Jessica, Adriana, Marcus Garcia; Sponsorship of flower arrangements: Noelia Leal; Flanagan High School Volunteer Coordinator: Jesse Ochoa

Thank you all so much.





# Thank You!

On behalf of the children, thank you again! The joy and smiles we shared with every child we met couldn't have been possible without your generous and loving gifts!

