

TAPintoAsbury Park, December 2023

Giving Back

Asbury Park Holiday Toy Drive off to a strong start



ASBURY PARK, NJ — The [Asbury Park Holiday Toy Drive](#) has returned with a goal to brighten the holidays of 500 families in the Asbury Park area.

It is being presented by [Community Karma](#), the [Asbury Park Little League](#) and [St. Stephen AME Zion Church](#) with continued support from the [Kiwanis Club of Asbury Park](#) and [Church of Philadelphia](#).

The annual toy drive kicked off last weekend at the [Asbury Park Holiday Bazaar](#) in the Grand Arcade of Convention Hall.

Families, children of all ages and their fur babies are encouraged to stop by on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. until December 17.

Guests who drop off a new unwrapped toy or a donation throughout the bazaar will be able to visit and take a photo with Santa Claus.

Those who make a minimum donation of \$16 receive a complimentary cookie box from [Confections of a Rockstar Bakery](#).

"This is the reason for the holiday season; it's putting a Santa smile on a special child at Christmas time with a toy," Will Wright, President of Asbury Park Little League, said.

[The Stone Pony](#) hosted The Smithereens featuring Robin Wilson of Gin Blossoms on November 24 in support of the holiday toy drive. Guests donated dozens of gifts as they arrived at the show.

"The generosity has been overwhelming, and the turnouts have been amazing. I think people are enjoying it and having fun," Celia Cattani, founder of Community Karma, told TAPinto.

Community Karma is a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase the level of compassion and community within Asbury Park.

The organization strives to build stronger community bonds between those groups who need assistance and those who are in positions to help.

"The power of local businesses and organizations coming together in support of families in our community is a perfect example of Asbury helping Asbury," Cattani added.

The holiday toy drive continues this weekend, with ample opportunities for the local community to participate.

[Melting Trends](#) will present the second annual Noise for Tots at [Bond Street Bar](#), 208 Bond St., on Sunday, December 3, beginning at 4 p.m.

Guests can enjoy live music from [The Extensions](#), [Not Yer Baby](#), [Baquette](#) and [The Vansaders](#). This event is sponsored by [Larry Cadillac](#), [Mutiny BBQ](#) and [Rebel Supply Co.](#)

[Georgie's](#), 812 Fifth Ave., is hosting its 24th Annual Holiday Toy Drive fundraiser on Sunday, December 3, from 3 to 8 p.m.

This event, hosted by Divinity Banks, features a drag show, silent auction, music by DJ Mick Hale and a free buffet.

A suggested donation of \$5 or an unwrapped toy is appreciated for attendance.

"It was a joy to experience the unity this community has shown over the course of this partnership," Rev. Quavon Newton, Pastor of St. Stephen AME Zion Church, said, adding, "Just thinking about the joy this toy

drive will bring to the hearts of children and families during this holiday season really has sparked the spirit of generosity and is cultivating hope for our community."

Opportunities for the Community to Help

Adopt-A-Family

Interested in shopping for an entire family? Please sign up using this [link](#), and you will receive an email with anonymous information regarding the family's needs and children's interests. You will then shop for these items and drop them off (or ship) to the designated location provided in the email. If choosing this option, please deliver the gifts by no later than December 12.

Online Shopping

Don't have time to shop for an entire family? Check out the [link](#) to easily shop for toys that will be directly shipped to Community Karma for distribution to families. Orders must be placed by December 2 to allow time for shipping.

Monetary Donations

Given the large number of families the toy drive will be supporting, monetary donations are critical to ensure each family's needs are met, as well as providing appropriate holiday goodies during the toy drive's distribution party. Donations are being accepted [here](#).

Drop Box Locations

Drop off a new unwrapped toy at any of the locations listed below!

The Stone Pony 913 Ocean Ave N, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

City Hall 1 Municipal Plz Asbury Park, NJ 07712

Nails By Ginny 408 Emory St Asbury Park, NJ 07712

reMAX 501 Grand Ave Unit L3, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

Georgies 810 Fifth Ave, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

Rebel Supply 550 Cookman Ave Asbury Park, NJ 07712

Bond Street 208 Bond St, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

Larry Cadillac 725 Cookman Ave, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

Mutiny BBQ Company 808 Fifth Ave, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

Convention Hall 1300 Ocean Ave N Asbury Park, NJ 07712

Kim Marie's Eat n Drink Away 1411 Kingsley St, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

Johnny Mac's House of Spirits 208 Main St, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

ReStore by Coastal Habitat for Humanity 1105 Memorial Dr, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

Silverball Retro Arcade 1000 Ocean Ave N, Asbury Park, NJ 07712