



**ASBURY PARK FAMILIES OVERWHELMED BY COMMUNITY GENEROSITY THANKS  
TO 2022 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE SUCCESS**

*Kiwanis Club of Asbury Park and Community Karma Make Holiday Miracles Come True!*

**ASBURY PARK, N.J., Jan. 16, 2023** – Dedicated to serving the needs of children through fighting hunger, improving literacy and offering guidance, the Kiwanis Club of Asbury Park is proud to announce its 2022 Holiday Toy Drive exceeded expectations, providing food, toys and **hope** to hundreds of families and children.

**“Community Karma and Kiwanis Club of Asbury Park** joined forces to make 2022 a memorable holiday season for worthy Asbury Park families,” said **Cori Lewin, President of the Asbury Park Kiwanis Club**. “We share a vision with our incredible partner, Community Karma – small actions by an incredibly supportive community can positively impact so many in BIG ways,” added Lewin.

Countless in-person functions, lively fundraisers and decorative collection boxes across town inspired record setting toys, cash and gift cards donations. Events at Georgie’s, Paradise, Kim Marie’s, Johnny Mac’s, Happy Belly Strong, Stone Pony, Convention Hall – and so many others – engaged and entertained residents and visitors alike. Furthermore, over 160 deserving Asbury Park families were **‘sponsored’** in advance to ensure they had the best holidays ever (about 50 more families were incorporated on the day of the toys distribution event).

Additional support was given to toy distribution events sponsored by other local groups, including the Asbury Park Little League and Langosta Lounge. “The entire process was designed to bring holiday gifts to families as well as build connections between the families and our two organizations,” co-chair Michelle Grezner remarked. “It was great to see familiar faces and meet new families. Kiwanis Club of Asbury Park has been holding events to build relationships – the toy drive was a great culmination of the year.”

Special thanks to Kiwanis AP and Community Karma members and volunteers for orchestrating a magical season for the Asbury Park Community. Amanda Fitzpatrick and Blackbird Community Commons hosted the spectacular distribution event. “It’s been an honor to work with Kiwanis to continue this long standing Asbury Park Holiday tradition of giving back. Community Karma is excited for continued partnership with Kiwanis,” said Celia Cattani, Founder Community Karma.

## **About Kiwanis Club of Asbury Park**

Kiwanis Club of Asbury Park is a volunteer-driven, non-denominational, not-for-profit 501(c)(4) organization that empowers people and businesses to improve the community in which they live and work by making lasting differences in the lives of children. Established in 1918 and rechartered in 2020, the Kiwanis Club of Asbury Park strives to be a positive influence so that one day, all children will wake up in a community that believes in them, nurtures them and provides them the support they need to thrive!

## **About Community Karma**

Community Karma is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase the level of compassion and community within Asbury Park. It works with local programs to provide supplemental fundraising and program management support. By creating more accessible and easy ways to give back and educating more people on those organizations who are in most need for additional support, Community Karma strives to build stronger community bonds between those groups who need assistance and those who are in positions to help.

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