

Toy drive brightens holiday season for families in need

Toys donated by the St Leonard's Primary School community to bestchance have been provided to families going through tough times this holiday season.

bestchance, a local not-for-profit organisation, empowers children and families to reach their full potential through early education and therapy services for children, specialist primary school education and Family Support Services.

“Our aim is for healthier families and happier childhoods. Many families have additional challenges when adjusting to the demands of parenthood. Our Family Support Services help parents and children through crisis including financial instability, family violence, mental health concerns and caring for children with additional needs. Adding the financial burden of the holiday season, this time of year can be extremely stressful for vulnerable families,” CEO Chris Chronis said.

Each year, bestchance calls for community support to help ease the pressure on families in need by running a Holiday Appeal for donations.

“We are extremely grateful for the generosity shown by the St Leonard's School community through their 2024 toy drive. These toys will not only give children a present to open on Christmas day, they will provide hope to the parents who will feel supported by their wider community,” Chris said.

The Family Support Services offered by bestchance include in-home care, financial aid and supported playgroups. Many of these services are supported by dedicated volunteers who offer families much needed connection.

Parents using bestchance Family Support say the services assist them to connect with trusted people and services to help their children reach their full potential.

"Referred by my child's kindergarten teacher, our Family Support worker worked alongside me to build my trust and help me find safety and therapy for my child in very trying times," said one of the parents.

In addition to the toys donated by St Leonard's Primary School, bestchance is raising money through its Annual Appeal to offer gift cards to families in need. If you would like to contribute to the appeal, you can donate here www.bestchance.org.au/donate-now or call 1300 224 644.

CEO Chris Chronis said “The support from the St Leonard's Primary School community has meant that many families won't go without this holiday season. Thank you on behalf of bestchance and the families we support, for your kindness and generosity.”

The picture below shows several of our wonderful volunteers sorting and packaging the St Leonard's donations, ready for families in need.



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