

4Cs of Paterson Spreads Holiday Cheer to Families and Children

By Ed Rumley

On Saturday, December 16, at the offices of the 4CS of Paterson and in conjunction with the Paterson Museum, it was definitely beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

By late morning the non-profit organization's annual Toy and Coat giveaway was in full swing. Walking into the entrance of the museum's Hannah Gallery, children's eyes widened in amazement as the meeting area had been converted into a virtual, winter wonderland.

As a DJ played festive music, colorful decorations, blinking lights, and a large Christmas tree served as holiday ambience. Some children waited in line to have their faces painted. Others enjoyed cookies and punch. However, all youngsters eagerly anticipated one thing. Upon hearing their name called, families rode the elevator to the third floor for more seasonal excitement. Upon entering a large room, complete with a floor of white cotton for snow, large candy canes, and even real-life elves, many of the tiny tots quickly climbed onto Santa's lap. After conversing and pausing for photos with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, each family left with a huge, bulging, red bag of gifts.

Coleen Stevens Porsher, CEO of 4CS, said the turnout and activities were encouraging.

"We contact each family and make sure that the toys and clothes are age appropriate for each child," Porsher stated. "Last year we had around 200 families that came. We expect the same this year."

Omary Rojas traveled from her home in Passaic to attend the festivities.



"I was born on Christmas Day," Rojas said, as her two sons Savier and Savien Martinez sat by munching on cookies. "This is really nice. This is my first time coming here. I am a medical assistant at a pediatric doctor's office. My husband is a quality control inspector. This helps us out financially."

Another family, Yahaira Haddock, her three daughters and two nieces, also said their experience was special. Haddock said the entourage travelled from her home in Bellville.

"I got the Happy Place doll princess," Keyra Clinton, Haddock's 10-year old daughter exclaimed with a smile on her face.

The mission of the 4CS of Passaic County is to assist families to obtain excellent, quality child care that is available, accessible, and affordable. The non-profit organization also serves as a resource and referral organization and administers one of the largest child-care financial subsidy programs in the state of New Jersey. Donations go toward helping people who may be a neighbor, a classmate, or someone new to the area. Programs of 4CS help more than 10,000 children each year. They enable parents to have time to work, go to school, and provide for their families. For more information about available programs and opportunities, go to <https://www.4cspassaic.org/> or call (973) 684-1904.