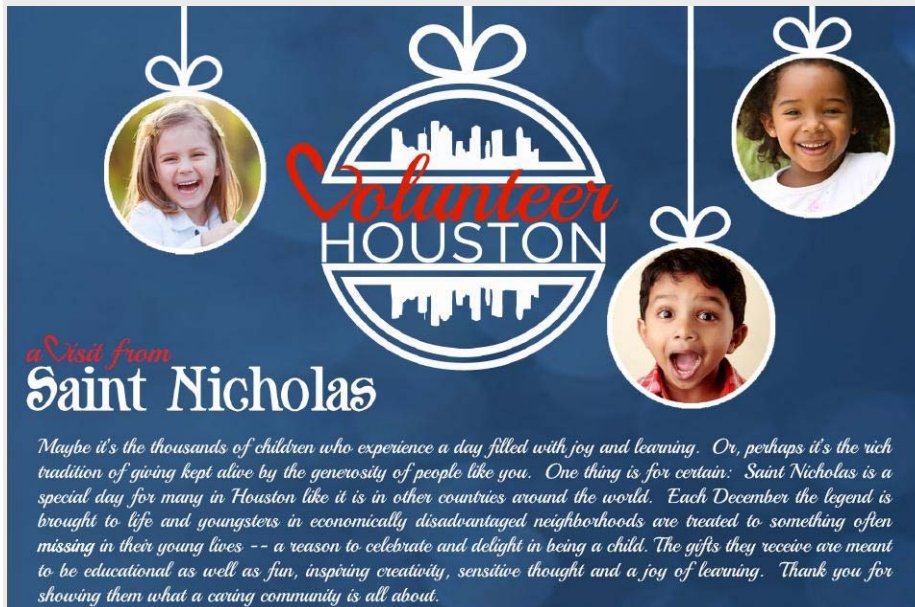


A Visit from Saint Nicholas

VOLUNTEER HOUSTON PRESENTS



Remembered for his special love of children, Saint Nicholas is the subject of many legends. The most famous is that of a shy and gentle man who lived during the 4th century in Asia Minor. It tells how he came to the aid of a poor family by anonymously leaving three bags of gold on their doorstep, enough to provide for their needs.

Saint Nicholas Feast Day, December 6, is traditionally celebrated as a children's holiday throughout the world. In Houston, the celebration unfolds through volunteers preparing bags filled with toys and books, and leaving the goodies in classrooms to surprise student at Title 1 schools.

WHAT MAKES SAINT NICHOLAS DAY IN HOUSTON SO SPECIAL?

Thousands of children experience a day filled with joy and learning brought to them by a community working together. For many, it is a day of delight they may not experience for the rest of the year. The gifts they receive are educational and fun; inspiring creativity and a love of learning. Memories of the experience are forever etched in their young minds.

This year Volunteer Houston is focusing on literacy and hands on community service. Each child will receive a book with reading tip sheets for parents and complete a service project after discovering their toys. By paying it forward, students will learn a valuable lesson... 'tis better to give than to receive.

In the Community

VOLUNTEERS BRING SAINT NICHOLAS TO LIFE

Through the support of corporate and individual sponsors, children from low-income families receive educational toys and books that are purchased exclusively for them.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Participate in our community card drive by making a contribution of \$20 or more. With this donation, we'll send a special holiday greeting card to whomever you designate, letting them know that a gift to a child was made in their honor—perfect for acknowledging a loved one, friend, or business associate during the holidays.
2. Volunteer at the Packing Party or Discovery Day.

WHO: The program serves 7,000 children attending pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade at elementary schools in Houston and the Bay Area. Recipient Title 1 schools are selected because a majority of students qualify for the free/reduced lunch program, and are typically located in economically disadvantaged areas.

WHEN: **A Visit From Saint Nicholas** takes place on Saint Nicholas Day, Friday, December 4, 2015.

WHERE: St. Nick will visit elementary schools in Houston and the Bay Area.

HOW: Corporate and community volunteers gather for our **annual backpack stuffing party** at a local warehouse on **Thursday, November 19** where they kick off the holiday season by building thousands of backpacks with special gifts. On Saint Nicholas Day, children arrive at school to discover they've had a special visitor.

Interested in volunteering? Contact Katie White Wisian at katiaw@volunteerhouston.org or 832.613.9275 .