

The magic of Christmas

Rack Up opens doors to student shoppers

Steinhatchee's Rack Up Thrift Store spread holiday cheer and made Christmas a bit brighter, allowing local elementary students to shop for loved ones ahead of Dec. 25.

The thrift store recently treated Steinhatchee School students to a true "Christmas shopping" experience. Michele Hodges, owner of Rack Up, invited the students to shop for loved ones on Dec. 14.

The night before, the Rack Up Thrift Store was transformed into a whimsical Christmas shop, complete with elves, twinkling lights and hot cocoa.

Prices were discounted to pennies, nickels and dimes, and local businesses donated gift items and money for youth who did not have

enough to purchase presents.

SeaHag Marina and the First Baptist Church of Steinhatchee, as well as many volunteers, contributed time, money and personalized gifts so that the students could have a grand holiday experience.

"Children walked away with a bagful of presents!" volunteer business owner Cathy Mendolera said.

As the student purchases were being wrapped, the children were also treated to hot chocolate, cookies and offered a stuffed animal, before being transported back to school by a kiddie train driven by Pastor Paul Nawlin.

"They were all so proud to be leaving with wrapped presents for their loved ones," Mendolera added.

Mendolera, who owns The Franklin Mercantile in St. Mary, said she was amazed by Steinhatchee, calling it "a small community with a huge heart."

"This unassuming little thrift store sure made a school full of children happy. I can only imagine what Christmas morning will be like for some of the parents who will be receiving surprise gifts!" Mendolera said.

At the end of the day, after all money from sales were collected, Hodges donated all profits from the event to the Steinhatchee School.

"Sometimes you need financial support, but sometimes we need hands, and today everyone stepped up and lent a hand. The entire experience was such a blessing," Hodges said.



(Left) Pastor Paul Nawlin of Steinhatchee's First Baptist Church used a kiddie train to transport children to the Rack Up Thrift Store, located across the street from the school. (Top right and center) Students came prepared with a shopping list and were accompanied by an adult assistant throughout their shopping experience. (Bottom right) After shopping, volunteers wrapped the students' gifts while they were treated to cocoa and cookies.



'I wish for my mom that she have a great day'

LETTERS TO SANTA

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Dear Santa,
Can I have clothes and how many elfs do you have? How does no won find you in the North Pole? What do you call yore villaage, Santas villaage? Can I have boots, a maagnet that is kind of like slime but it is a maagnet or just a plan maagnet or maby a hover bourde.

Love, Logan

Dear Santa,
This is what I want for Christmas a camera, a pet dog because when we leave she is so lonely. I also want no ore tests and no more covid. Santa if you can do this st. Nick I'd love it. Do you take your rain deer into peoples houses? Can you please have world peace? Merry Christmas St. Nick.

Love, Hailey C.

Dear Santa,
I have giving gift to evrey one and my family and I wish that my parents but they think it is to expensive so I was figuring that you can get me one or make me one.

Love, Wyatt

Dear Santa,
this year I relly relly wanted a PS4 headset bundle and things have been hard for my mom and I was thinking if you could help my mom be happier because everytime I am on the phone with her she cries.

Love, Cayden

Dear Santa,
Hi my name is Aiden D. You probably think I want that slichy PS5. No. I really want a iPad, one wheeler heelys, LED shoes and Fort nite character. Most of all I want people to be respected and all people to be treated the same way and for every one to stay safe during this horrible virus.

Love, Aiden D.

Dear Santa,
I want to let you know I'm thankful for you bringing me stuff every yeare. This year I want a phone, and apple watch, in for you to eat my cookies and milke.

Love, Tajjia

Dear Santa,
Everyone says that you are fake. I have cameras at home and on Christmas we find photos of you when we unwrap presents and for Christmas I want studio series, three ratchet and my brother wants jetwins optimas prime. I want it and on christmas I give it to him.

Love, Aaden W.

P.S. If my mom and dad's parent don't give me studio series jetfire and movie 1 optimas prime can you get it for me.

Dear Santa,
I want a PS5, a dirtbike, a basketball goal, a iPhone 12, a fishing pole, a ticket to a concert, new Jordas, a skate board. Merry Christmas Santa, have a great day.

Love, Javis

Dear Santa,
Santa can I get a gaming laptop with a headphone set. I want my keyboard to light up and my family wants wifi please. I also want air Jordans hot pink color. I want a hooties hot pink too.

Love, Taylor R.

P.S. I love Christmas.

Dear St. Nicholas,
I would love to send St. Jude some money and my family have a Christmas party. My have been sick ans PSN cards. Wenday we havine a break party me and my class.

Love, Addison D.

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas: 1 ps4, 2 boxes of legos, 3 t-shirts, 4 flaes, 5 mac book pros, 6 iPhone 11s, 7 cups of joy, 8 nikes, 9 70 inch flat screen tvs, 10 bikes, 11 cups of hot coco, 12 thousand dolars.

By, Trey W.

Dear Santa,
I would like a cup that spells: Ashlee or Ash S. because everyone spells my name Ashley when it is Ashlee. Like who is Ashley. I am not Ashley! I am Ashlee. Any way, bye!

Your friend, A.S.H.L.E.E.

Dear Santa,
I would like some more crocs for Christmas and some crocs charms because I don't have that

much of crocs or crocs charms.

Love, Makayla

Dear Santa,
I want a four wheeler, and some crocs. I want some cloths and some more y and a dog toy for my dog and some gift cards for my xbox and some new air forses and Jordans or nikes.

Love, Wyatt

Dear Santa,
For this Christmas I really want to see my grandma for Christmas. I really want some clothes and bathine suits because I don't have that much bathine suits but I have a lot of clothes but not Christmas clothes.

Allie E.

Dear Santa,
I want clothes and vans high-tops because you can never have too many clothes and I need another pair of shoes because I have to many old shoes and not enough good shoes.

Sincerely, Katie Beth

Dear Santa,
I hope you are having a good day. And what I won't some toy for me and can you please tell all of your randers and can you bye me

some LOL doll's, and some more coloring pencil please and then I won't some more shoes please and some more clothing and also some more ering's and some finger nail polish and a little laptop.

Addison M.B.

Dear Santa,
I want a four weeler for me and my sister to share and I want geogia clothing and geogia hats.

BenHlee

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a dirtbike and a gaming PC and a new puppy and a knife and then I want a new knife and I want Detroit become human and call of duty black ops cold war.

Hunter

Dear Santa,
Its Brenda and I wish for my Uncle Mike that he feel better. I wish for my mom that she have a great day. I wish for my bother that he don't get injury again. I wish for Hailyn that she get a iPhone 11 pro max. I wish for Brend that me get a iPhone 11 pro max. I wish for Brenda that she get smart. I wish for Hailyn that she get smart too.

Brenda

Dear Santa,
This year I would like a new room decor and for my brothers to stop asservating me and let them get something to distract them from being annoying. And I would like a new iPhone, a hoverboard (Blue+o+th), some led lights, and some new jeans.

Dear Santa,
I don't know what I want for Christmas because I already got what I wanted a puppy and she was a Christmas gift last year but I got her in February from this year and she isn't a year old and she is a patteredale terrier and I named her Coraline. And her favorite game is to race and she always wins but since I am a very slow runner she helps me get faster every day because I race with her every day after school. And I want her to have a good Christmas this year. So what I want for Christmas is some stuff for Coraline that she will love. And some toy animals for Waylen our neighbor's baby. And also last year I heard laes all night last year. I wonder if it was you?

Angela and

Coraline

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Our Christmas Baby turns 40 December 25, 2020



Happy Birthday
Keith Brooks

We are very proud of you!

Love you,
Mom, Dad & Family
& Granny DuBose

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Wishing you a merry Christmas
and peace throughout the year.

Dana Southerland
Taylor County Supervisor of Elections

Not paid at public expense.

Wishing you and your family
a Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

SHAWNA BEACH
Taylor County
Property Appraiser-Elect

Not paid for at public expense.