

South suburban charity needs toys

Donations falling far short, spurring holiday worries

South Suburban Toys for Kids is desperately in need of donations, say organizers, and without an eleventh-hour push, many of the region's neediest children may be empty-handed on Christmas morning.

Though the group has collected about 20,000 toys so far, it's far short of the 50,000 it needs to fulfill the many requests from churches, social services and day care centers in some of the state's poorest communities, including Robbins, Phoenix, Dixmoor and Ford Heights.

Jeffrey Cantor, a board member for the charity, cited the limping economy: "People who used to give to us are now recipients."

The group, which gets no government funds, distributed food to about 1,000 children and their families at Thanksgiving, but it had to turn away 600, Cantor said. He fears a similar situation for Christmas.

Those wanting to help can donate money online or bring new toys, for any age, unwrapped to the collection site, 16710 S. Richmond Ave., Unit 4, Hazel Crest. The site will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Christmas Eve. For information, call 708-596-7169 or go to lbenterprises.org.

— Bonnie Miller Rubin