



For Immediate Release
Contact: Jeanne Mariani-Belding
Direct: 707-794-3063
Cell: 707-694-4402

December 6, 2017

SMART Holiday Express toy drive expands to meet growing need

The Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) will hold its second annual Holiday Express Toy Drive on Saturday, December 9, and the agency has doubled its goal to meet the growing need for toys following the North Bay fires.

SMART's Holiday Express Train will be parked at the **Novato San Marin Station**, at 7700 Redwood Blvd. from **8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**, and at the **Santa Rosa Downtown Station** at 7 Fourth Street from **10:30 a.m. to noon**. SMART is asking the community to bring unwrapped toys and gift cards to these stations where they can tour the inside of the decorated Holiday Express Train and visit with Santa. Clover Sonoma will also be onboard serving free holiday eggnog.

SMART plans to collect two trainloads of toys and gift cards—double the amount collected last year. To help reach that goal, SMART is also accepting donations at three drop-off locations from **noon to 4 p.m.** on Saturday. Donations can be dropped off at SMART's Cotati Station, 980 East Cotati Avenue; the Petaluma Downtown Station, 220 Lakeville Street; and the San Rafael Station, 680 Third Street, with a drop-off site at Third Street and Tamalpais Avenue.

Donations will be distributed to SMART's nonprofit partners, including Toys for Tots of Sonoma County; Novato Human Needs Center; Novato Youth Center; Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County; and Social Advocates for Youth based in Santa Rosa.

Local businesses are also partnering with SMART to make this year's toy drive a success, including Clover Sonoma, Minuteman Press in Petaluma, Signarama in Santa Rosa, FastSigns in Petaluma, Whistlestop senior center in San Rafael, and Petaluma's Zephyr Sportswear.

After Saturday's toy drive, the decorated Holiday Express Train will be put into service for riders to enjoy as part of SMART's regular fleet operating during service hours through January 1.

For more information visit SMART's website at SonomaMarinTrain.org or call (707) 794-3077.

###