

Slack & Co. Partners with Elves & More to Build Bikes for Under-Privileged Children in Houston.

Houston, TX—Just a few days before Christmas, thousands of bikes were delivered to under-privileged children throughout Houston. These bikes are a gift to children from the Elves & More program, supported by donations and volunteer hours of Houston business partners, including Slack & Co. Contracting, Inc.

Rather than give traditional gifts, for the past three years, Slack & Co. has made a financial donation to Elves & More in the name of its clients, vendors, employees and friends. In addition to the financial donations, volunteers from Slack & Co. gathered to build bikes at Reliant Center on December 10, 2008.

"I really enjoy volunteering with Elves & More each year," says Project Manager Chris Blessing. "It's a great feeling knowing that I've brightened a child's holiday with a bicycle from Elves & More."

Bicycles are purchased for children by Elves & More through financial donations. Each bicycle is then put together by the hands of thousands of volunteers. Reliant Arena is transformed into a sea of bikes. The bikes are then loaded onto trucks, driven into needy communities and distributed to kids of all ages. Volunteers from Elves & More have reported that when children see the trucks in their neighborhoods, they literally come running!

Elves & More's mantra is "changing lives—one bike at a time." Teachers use the Elves & More bike program as a powerful "contract" incentive, encouraging kids to attend school more often, improve their grades and behave well in class. With a bike from Elves & More, kids also have basic transportation to after school activities like sports, tutoring and mentor programs that they couldn't reach by walking. And finally, bicycles encourage children to be active, improving their overall health and fitness. This powerful program helps children ride out of poverty and into new opportunities to succeed in life.



Ryan Gaudet (R) and Chris Blessing (L) at Reliant Arena building a girl's bike for the Elves & More