

Christmas elves hand out early 1,000 free bikes in Akron

Posted By: [Paul Thomas](#)

AKRON -- Santa Claus traded in his sleigh for some semi-tractor trailers to haul presents Sunday afternoon.

Dozens of Christmas elves rolled through an Akron neighborhood after police car and fire trucks sirens announced their presence with presents.

The group "Elves and More of Northeast Ohio" handed out nearly 1,000 free bikes and tricycles to kids 17 years old and younger at the community center in Mason Park.

"It's cool to be able and see the kids come out and the smiles on their faces," said Elves and More co-founder Brian Miner.

"Especially in this downturned economy, the know that we've given some parents a little bite of relief in terms of being able to provide their family something this Christmas."

Parents like Mary Holloman were grateful for the unexpected gift.

Holloman's 9-year-old son had his bike stolen. "I didn't have enough to him a (new) bike," Holloman said. "Thank you very much."

James Kelley, whose 6-year-old daughter Savannah received a new bike, was nearly moved to tears by the gesture.

"I'm surprised that something like this could happen in a community like this," Kelley said. "Especially with all the prostitution and drugs in this neighborhood as well, whoever is doing this, I thank 'em,"

It's the third year that Elves and More has given away bikes in a low-income neighborhood in Akron.

"Giving them a Christmas gift is nice," said Tim House, who founded the group Elves and More along with Miner. "But we want them to use the bikes to get to the community center or some sort of learning or mentorship programs."

