

The Reverend Dan Robertson of Metairie Ridge Presbyterian Church and Kris Pottharst, Executive Director of Project Homecoming, share this story:

On December 12th Metairie Ridge Presbyterian Church hosted a Pancakes with Santa breakfast. The breakfast was free with our only request being for those who are able to bring a new, unwrapped toy to help local families in need this Christmas. The response was greater than we could have imagined. As we began to setup a giving area in one corner of our Fellowship Hall the gifts began to come in. Before the day of the breakfast the baskets we had put out were already completed covered! On the morning of the breakfast over fifty children and their families joined together for mission, pancakes, and of course, Santa! We ended up collecting over fourteen boxes of gifts for children of all ages. The gifts were then sorted and delivered to the Metropolitan Center for Women and Children and Project Homecoming -- two organizations that we are blessed to have operating here in New Orleans.



Three of the Project Homecoming Workforce Development trainees chose the toys that were so special to their children this Christmas. These dads were just beaming after selecting their toys and were very proud that their children would have so many wonderful toys to unwrap Christmas morning.



Each of these young men have turned a corner in their lives through Project Homecoming's Workforce Development program and are now on a path toward a liveable wage and being able, for the first time, to provide for their families.



The Workforce Development program takes un-or-underemployed local residents into the PH construction crew to provide training in high quality residential construction techniques while this same crew is rehabbing blighted properties into affordable homes for first-time homebuyers. Win-win!

The Project Homecoming family thanks the Metairie Ridge Presbyterian family for these generous blessings and sends warm wishes to all of you.