

# Bridging the Gap in Five Wards (22nd, 24th, 28th, 29th and 37th) for the New Year!

Ashunti RMS, Inc. served #500 families from the Austin, North Lawndale, Little Village, and East and West Garfield Communities. Many of the youth are also in our After-School and Summer Program.

These Events Were Sponsored By:

Toys for Tots – 2nd Bn 24th Marines, Chgo, IL

Ashunti RMS, Inc. – CEO/ Regina D. Lewis

The Mildred Franks Foundation – Executive Director / Mica Woods

All Custom Attire (ACA) – Owner / Darlene Keys-Demarcko

Genesis Drum Line Entertainment– Managers / Brian Jefferson & Andre Flowers

Outreach International

\*Special Story behind this Sponsor – Mr. Bill Kanatas, a business associate, spoke to his wife about our program and toy drive. His wife, Mrs. Joan Kanatas and her close friend, Mrs. Jennifer Gentile sent out a blast to their friends. They ended up sponsoring #40 children for our Christmas Toys for Tots Event. These events were held at Ashunti Community Resource Center on 12/17/11 and, Ashunti RMS, Inc. on 12/24/11.



From working with the people and children in these communities, Ms. Lewis (CEO of Ashunti RMS, Inc.) found that many families would not be celebrating Christmas because of lack of income. Some of the families only receive SSI; Stamps with no cash; one or both parents are unemployed; or children are being raised by grandparents because of multi-issues with the parents. After forming the collaborations at Ashunti Community Resource Center, the partners got busy collecting food, clothes, and toys.

Ms. Mica Woods, one of the partners stated that her heart was overwhelmed with joy because several people were crying stating that, “We just don’t know how much this means to them.” Other community residents were saying how they thought people had forgotten about them. Many of the community residents stated that it had been a long time since someone had done anything for them, especially near 16th and Kostner.

Other Activities during our Toys for Tots Event included the following:

- (1) We passed out winter coats to some of our at-risk youth
- (2) Congressman Danny Davis stopped by to sing Christmas Carols, pass out gifts, and give words of encouragement to residents at the Recovery House
- (3) Rev. Dr. Marshall E. Hatch of New Mount Pilgrim MB Church stopped by as well to sing Christmas Carols, bring gifts, and offer a baby blessing to a young lady at the event.