

## Santa visits Mid City Nutrition for giveaway of toys, essentials

BY CRYSTAL GARCIA  
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People who visited Mid City Nutrition got a Christmas surprise Wednesday.

Santa Claus was on hand to help children fill bags with toys, and grown-ups walked away with bags full of personal-care products such as toilet paper, soap and warm clothing.

Students at Ross Medical Education Center in Port Huron -- with help from donors -- prepared 250 bags for people who eat at the soup kitchen. Mid City has given away holiday gift bags for 18 years, but Wednesday marked the first time students from Ross Medical Center got involved.

"It's been a great experience," said Renee Dueweki, Ross' career development coordinator. "There will be many more years to come, I'm sure."

To get the items, people had to be regulars at the soup kitchen, said Alice Rieves, Mid City's director.

Angel Smith of Port Huron was among those who was grateful for the extra holiday help.

"It keeps me warm and clean," she said.

The toys, she said, were nice for her sons, ages 13 and 14.

"We didn't get much in gifts this year," Smith said.

Dana Sandeval of Port Huron has been eating at the soup kitchen on and off for about three months after losing her job in a factory.

Her children -- a 9-year-old son and an 8-year-old daughter -- were excited to see Santa and eager to show their mother the toys they picked.

"I think it's really good," Sandeval said about the giveaway. "It gives the kids hope."

**Contact Crystal Garcia at (810) 989-6276 or [cagarcia@gannett.com](mailto:cagarcia@gannett.com).**



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**BIG MAN, BIG HEART:** Santa hands Dakota Burgett, 9, of Port Huron a mini basketball at Mid City Nutrition as part of a giveaway with Ross Medical Education Center and Mid City Nutrition in Port Huron. (By MARK R. RUMMEL, Times Herald)