December 18, 2017

Blaine, WA - Merchants at Birch Bay Square collected over 150 toys on Saturday and built a mountain of wishes for Whatcom County children. “This is what happens when kindness trumps business,” said Suzanne Smith, Chair of the Birch Bay Square Merchants Group & owner of Betty Be Good.

Toys for Tots Coordinator, Wes Weston was overwhelmed with the show of support from the northern region of Whatcom County. Shoppers and local businesses responded to the live radio reports by Kafe 104.1fm and arrived at Birch Bay Square with toys to contribute to the mountain. One woman from a local business Potelco visited with $300 in toy donations after hearing the broadcast.

Partners such as Subway restaurants gave each donor a six inch sandwich for each toy donation. Bob’s Burger & Brew continued that generosity with $20 gift cards for the next six donors.  These partners and others from the Square collected toys and cash donations in-store including Bass, Bow Wow & Woofs, After Five Fashions, Leggs Hanes Bali, Mike’s Dollar Store Plus, The Market, Farmers Insurance, Anytime Fitness, Windermere and Betty Be Good.

Themed Christmas trees, free cocoa, cookies and crafts made this event a free and fun Christmas activity for the whole family. Billy Brown from Windermere trucked away the mountain of toys in a trailer and delivered them to the Bellingham distribution center just under the wire for the finale of the Toys for Tots program that day.

Toy donations were collected through merchants from December 2nd - 16th. The Toys for Tots program has now concluded for 2017. Merchants at Birch Bay Square are committed to running the toy drive again next year. "We want to build an even bigger mountain of toys next year", said Smith. More information can be found at [www.birchbaysquare.com](http://www.birchbaysquare.com) or [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org)

###