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From left: Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County President & CEO Jaene Miranda, Ethan, GL Homes President Misha Ezratti, Kamryn and GL Homes Vice President of Community Relations Sarah Alsofrom. [TRACEY BENSON]

It's all about the kids:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County's Holiday Gift Drive in full swing

For the third consecutive year, GL Homes is the title sponsor of this annual initiative, thus ensuring that BGCPC's 13,000 youngsters have a present to open during the holidays.

By Steve Dorfman • Notables Staff Writer

If there's a more gratifying image than the sight of a smiling child opening a brand-new gift during the holidays, we haven't seen it.

And neither have the good folks at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County. That's why every year they invite the community to help ensure that every one of their 13,000-plus members receives a present.

For the last three years, the organization – whose mission is “to do whatever it takes to support all youth on their path to a great future” – has received title-sponsor support from GL Homes.

This is an initiative GL Homes takes SERIOUSLY: It is the title sponsor of five Boys & Girls Clubs Holiday Gift Drives in each area it builds homes, including



Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County Executive Club Director Jamari Grant with Youth of the Year 2024 finalist Xavier Williams.

Palm Beach County, St. Lucie County, Tampa Bay, Collier County and Lee County.

“We are so grateful to GL

Homes for their year-round and unwavering support for our programs like the 2023 Holiday Gift Drive,” said Jaene Miranda, CEO and President of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County. “To see GL Homes and its employees get involved in each project is beyond impressive. This holiday gift drive is different than most because, while we are seeking toys for the younger children, we also want to prioritize the pre-teens and teenagers who are frequently left out of these initiatives.”

Misha Ezratti, President of GL Homes, echoed Miranda's sentiments.

“Three years ago, GL Homes and Boys & Girls Clubs of

See GIFT DRIVE, 2D



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From left: Keren, Ja'lyasia, Maritza and Ailani [TRACEY BENSON]

GIFT DRIVE

from 1D

Palm Beach County realized this community-wide collection of holiday gifts needed broader support from the corporate sector,” said Ezratti. “We put our heads together and created a dynamic partnership, one that’s created happy holiday memories for more than 13,000 children and teens. By giving a single present to just one child, we can help an entire family.”

This year, a priority is also being placed on making sure that none of the Clubs’ older members are left out.

“Boys & Girls Clubs teens are often the forgotten ones,” explained Sarah Alsofrom, Vice President of Community Relations with GL Homes. “We’ve doubled down to create awareness about the joy older children experience when they’re remembered during the holidays.” And new for this year is tonight’s premiere of GL Homes’ “Adopt-A-Club” gift party at Boys & Girls Club in Delray Beach.

The family-friendly shindig will be run by local GL Homes employees and will host 150 club members and more than two dozen staff members for a holiday buffet dinner and gift giveaway.

Word is, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making a surprise appearance to



From left: Twiss, Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County Executive Club Director Jamari Grant with Marlon.

enliven the festivities. (Although we suggest no friends or colleagues of GL Homes employee, Neil Greenfader, nor his wife Ileane, try to get ahold of them during this time – as their cell phones will most decidedly be on mute.)

If reading about tonight’s activities has inspired you to ensure a local child’s holiday happiness, you have to act fast. Donations for this year’s Holiday Gift Drive are being accepted through Dec. 11. What’s most needed, say organizers, are toys for kids, gifts for pre-teens and teens, gift cards and cash donations.

For those who’d like to get involved, visit bgcpbc.org/holiday-gift-drive or contact Grace Madden by emailing her at gmadden@bgcpbc.org or calling 561-683-3287.