



Local attorney Kenneth J. Allen and his wife, Nina, stand amidst hundreds of toys the couple are donating to deserving families with small children this year.

Local attorney makes holiday 'happier' for children

Needy families with small children in Northwest Indiana will have a little happier Christmas thanks to the donation of hundreds of new toys by Kenneth J. Allen and his wife, Nina.

"Last Christmas we decided to make a gift of \$10,000 in cash to various local charities, churches and shelters. Our focus this year is on helping families with small children. We want to assure that a few more children in our community have a decent measure of Christmas joy," said Allen, a Northwest Indiana injury attorney, who has offices in Lake and Porter counties.

That is not to say that the Allens have forsaken other charities this year; for example, their \$5,000 contribution to the Indiana Equal Justice Fund is believed to be the

largest gift made by any individual in the state during 1999. The Equal Justice Fund is the organization in Indiana that provides free legal service to the poor in Indiana.

"Giving to the Equal Justice Fund is also important since all too often only the side of wealth and power has competent legal representation. Because the Equal Justice Fund seeks to address this inequity by providing free legal assistance to those who do not have the ability to fight for themselves, we are proud to support it," Allen said.

"But during Christmastime we thought it best to make a gift directly to those families with small children who simply cannot afford to buy presents, and the gift of toys is something special that all kids deserve at Christmas," Allen said.