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**PORT RECEPTION COLLECTS TOYS FOR
FREEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT BLUE SANTA PROGRAM**

FREEPORT, Texas (December 9, 2009) – A total of 125 toys were collected at Port Freeport's Annual Friends and Customers Appreciation Reception on Friday, Dec. 4 at the Lake Jackson Civic Center. The Port asked guests to join them in cooperation with the Freeport Police Department Blue Santa Program by bringing a new, unwrapped toy for less fortunate children in the community.

"Because of Port Freeport's generosity, we are able to provide more gifts to children, who might otherwise be receiving little or no gifts this Christmas," said Freeport Police Department Lieutenant Allen Lawson. "With many families struggling more than ever before, the department is hoping to collect even more toys".

The Blue Santa Program began many years ago when Police Officers from the community adopted needy families at Christmas time. The officers provided these families with groceries for Christmas dinner and presents for their children. These police officers, wearing their blue uniforms, became known as "Blue Santas".

"We are grateful for the thoughtfulness that Port Freeport employees and their guests have shown to our Blue Santa Program," said Freeport Police Department Sergeant Juanita Cardozo. "The smiles left on the faces of the children that will receive these gifts provide warmth for our hearts knowing that we all made a difference".

The success of the Blue Santa Program depends on the generous contributions from local businesses, civic organizations and countless residents. This year, the Freeport Police Department hopes to provide gifts for more than 300 children in the Freeport community.

"Port Freeport recognized the need to help support the Blue Santa Program in our community," said Port Freeport Port Commissioner Paul Kresta. "We were obliged to be able to provide the toys for such a special program".

Port Freeport currently ranks 16th among U.S. ports in international cargo tonnage handled. With a current channel of 45-foot depth, soon to be widened and deepened, just 3 miles from open Gulf of Mexico waters, Port Freeport offers more than 7,500 acres for future development. Port Freeport serves its customers and stakeholders through development and marketing of competitive world-class navigational capabilities, technically advanced marine and multimodal terminal services and port-related industrial facilities while achieving profits and creating jobs as a leading economic catalyst for the Texas Gulf Coast.

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