

Country Toy Tea raises thousands for shelters at 10th anniversary event



By Angela Gismondi

The holidays will be a little brighter for families living in shelters this holiday season, thanks to donations from the Country Toy Tea.

The 10th annual event took place December 3 in King City.

Guests were asked to bring one or more unwrapped toys, a cash donation or gift cards which will be distributed to some of the many needy children and their families in the York Region area.

Many of the children receiving these toys will be living in shelters during the holiday season.

As a result of this year's drive, 2,500 toys have been distributed and over \$15,000 was raised in cash and gift cards.

The Country Toy Tea supports a number of local charities including Blue Door Shelter ? Leeder Place Family Shelter, 360 Kids (Pathways of York Region), the Women's Centre of York Region, Sandgate Women's Shelter and the York Centre for Youth and Families.

The event featured a fashion show with fashions from Want Boutique, Aurora's Injoy Boutique and Second Skin sportswear, and hair and make-up done by James Dimitri Hair Atelier. Those in attendance also enjoyed sampling some seasonal treats, and sipping some Starbucks tea and coffee.

The Pickering College Choir was on-hand to entertain with holiday music.

The Country Toy Tea organizing committee includes Linda Brown, Denise Clark, Leslie Ewing, Molly Fitzpatrick, Amanda Langston, Kim Nichols, Maureen Ofield, Stacie Stanton, Judy Totten and Andrea Webb.

