



Hi Everyone,

I knew there were more shots of the great JAKKS toys unloading at our warehouse on 12/29/08. I found them today in the recesses of an archival CD--thanks to Tony Salas for these shots. So here's the whole story: for three years now, JAKKS, one of the largest toy distributors in the country has worked with COTA to bring thousands of toys to our kids. This year, they came through with 5,000 toys that Tim Beck and I picked up at their unbelievably huge warehouse in Walnut, CA.

We rented a 24', dock-height truck, which I was very glad Tim agreed to drive and back up to the dock. 13 pallets of toys were forklifted into the truck, and then we drove off back to our little warehouse in Mission Viejo to meet our gallant little crew that worked to burst the pallets and unload all those toys--great fun as you'll see...



Dave at the JAKKS docks as the loading is going on inside--no sweat to this part.



Back at our warehouse, Tim, our intrepid driver, fearlessly opens the truck's door--that's the back end of 24' of solid toys--thanks, JAKKS!



Dave, fearlessly unloading as Scott Turner fearlessly looks on.



We placed our youngest and strongest in the truck breaking down the pallets, and handing down the cartons, as Josh Davis displays.





Gene Spann, our resident kid, looking through the cartons and checking out the merchandise.



Now that's a real man--Frank Billman, from Dallas, TX, shows us how it's done.



The whole crew takes a bow in front of the warehouse door, loaded out to the edge.

We had assembled over 1,400 Christmas Stocking bags on Wednesday 2/10/09, and the following week, Norm Kremiller took most of the bags to our nutrition centers in northern Baja for distribution to our kids before Christmas. Then on 12/21/08, he drove all the way down to Vicente Guerrero in central Baja to deliver the rest of the bags to children there. It was a great treat for these children, mostly from Oaxacan migrant worker families, to receive these gifts just in time for Christmas. Take a look...



Norm getting ready to leave from our warehouse with his bags of stockings.



At the home of one family after some fairly heavy rains--the kids all have their bags.



Now there's a smile--check out the little nino in front--that's worth a 400 mile trip right there.



More happy customers..





Mexican mud on the tires and big smiles on the faces--time to head home.

Thanks again to everyone who made these stockings possible, and to JAKKS for being so generous to our kids.

Look for Part 1 of Caravan Day coming soon to an email box near you...

Dave

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