



Christmas gifts for Katie's kids

Above, 8-year-old Katie Greene waits for a line of carts with packages to start to move inside of Carolinas Medical Center-Union. The packages contain presents for sick children who will spend Christmas time in the hospital. Katie raised money to buy the presents through her project, *KatiesKidz*. *KatiesKidz* got its start in 2007 when Katie picked up a teddy bear at Walmart and her father asked if she had found something she wanted. She replied that she wanted to give gifts to all the children in the world. Her parents, Dean and Liz Greene of Weddington, told her they would help but she would have to raise the money. That year Katie was able to raise \$162 in just a few days before Christmas by calling family, friends and classmates. Her parents thought that would be the end of it, but Katie's goal for 2008 was to raise \$2,008. She collected more than \$2,600. Now she has a Web site, katiekidz.org. This year her goal was \$8,000 and she raised more than \$9,400. Katie and her parents took gifts to six hospitals in the area. When asked why she does it, she said 'To make the children smile.' At left, she gets a hug from CMC-Union's pediatric mascot, Lil E. Paq.

Staff photos by Ed Cottingham