

# Just call her Katie Claus



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Seven-year-old Katie Greene helps Levine Children's Hospital child life assistant Greg St. Martin load a wagon with toys.

## 7-year-old is passionate about giving sick kids holiday toys

BY JIM MORRILL

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It started last year at Wal-Mart, when Katie Greene saw a Care Bear and got a big idea - giving Christmas toys to sick kids.

"I wanted to first give presents around the world," says Katie, a 7-year-old from Weddington. "But my parents said, 'Why don't we start out small?'"

So she did, raising \$167 and delivering two bags of toys to Levine Children's Hospital at Carolinas Medical Center. But this year Katie, a first-

grader at Providence Christian, did better.

On Monday, she and her parents brought boxes stuffed with more than 600 toys to the hospital, where they'll be delivered to patients on Christmas Day. She bought the presents with more than \$2,600 she raised from family, friends and through her own Web site called Katies Kidz.

On it, Katie calls last Christmas "the best time of my life."

"And that's why I'm doing it again," she wrote.

### 'My name is Katie'

Katie Greene wrote about her project on her Web page. To read her handwritten explanation - or to contribute - visit [katiekidz.org](http://katiekidz.org).

Katie was single-minded in raising money. Even birthday cash from her grandparents went to the fund. She calls it "my kids' money."

"She's been talking about it all year," said her mother, Liz.

A one-girl stimulus program, Katie hit the stores Friday. She asked merchants - including Michaels and

Chick-fil-A at the Arboretum - for discounts. With some advice from her mom and dad, Dean, she loaded up on gifts, including art and craft supplies, board games, playing cards, gift cards and even a few iPod shuffles.

Monday, wearing a red and white Santa hat over her long brown hair, Katie watched hospital staffers pack her boxes into red wagons for delivery to more than 200 kids at Levine.

Katie, who aspires to be an artist or work at Chick-fil-A, has big plans for the future.

"Next year," she said, "we're going to do two hospitals."

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