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### Community News

## Pinole-Hercules: Stuff-a-Bus awaits holiday food and toy donations



Stuff-A-Bus, WestCAT's annual holiday food drive on wheels, will stop in Pinole and Hercules in December. (WestCAT)

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**PINOLE** — Stuff-A-Bus, WestCAT's annual holiday food and toy drive, will collect donations in Pinole and Hercules in December.

This year, WestCAT is partnering once again with the "Chips for Kids" toy drive of the California Highway Patrol's Golden Gate Division and the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano.

“This is the 15th year that we’ve held this event, which is a staff favorite, and each year it grows in both popularity and support,” WestCAT Marketing Manager Yvonne Morrow said.

Last year, Stuff-a-Bus added Santa’s Workshop, with the opportunity to get photos taken with Santa.

Stuff-A-Bus will receive donations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the following dates and places:

- Dec. 13 at the Safeway store parking lot at 1421 Tara Hills Drive, Pinole.
- Dec. 15 at the Lucky Supermarket parking lot at 1590 Sycamore Ave., Hercules.

Toys donated to the drive must be new and unwrapped. Food must be nonperishable; a list of acceptable food items is available at [www.foodbankccs.org](http://www.foodbankccs.org). Stuff-A-Bus will also accept monetary donations.

Donations can also be made at the WestCAT office, 601 Walter Ave., Pinole, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays through Dec. 18.

Last year, Stuff-a-Bus collected 1,395 lbs. of non-perishable food and about \$2,500 in toy and cash donations, Morrow said.

For more information about Stuff-A-Bus or WestCAT bus service, go to [www.westcat.org](http://www.westcat.org) or call 510-724-3331. For more information about the CHP’s “CHIPS for Kids” program visit [www.chp.ca.gov](http://www.chp.ca.gov).

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**Tom Lochner** Tom Lochner covers Berkeley and occasionally West Contra Costa County for the Bay Area News Group. Tom grew up in Western Europe. He was a translator for a patent law firm and an international bank in Manhattan, then a housing manager in the Bronx and Upper Manhattan, before moving to California to become a journalist.

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