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For Immediate Release – Exclusive to the Taos News and Los Alamos Monitor
December 18, 2007

LANL (LANLSC) and HSD to Help Low-income Families in Taos This Christmas

Santa Fe – Employees at the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center (LANLSC), Los Alamos National Laboratories (LANL) again this year are opening their pocketbooks for low-income families in Northern New Mexico. The program is *100+ Special Children*.

For the past five years, the Human Services Department (HSD) has provided LANLSC employees the names of 100 children along with their Santa Claus wish list. The children are from families using the department's services, like food stamps and/or Temporary Assistance for Needy families. LANLSC employees participating in the program then pick one or more children and purchase them nice gifts, like bicycles. Each child also receives clothing.

This year, the Taos HSD Income Support Division (ISD) office was selected to participate in *100+ Special Children* yet they found 117 children who wanted to participate. LANLSC employees graciously found more supporters, so every participating child will receive gifts. "We feel fortunate that our office has the chance to participate in *100 Special Children* this year," said Delfino Torres, ISD Taos County Director. "I thank LANLSC for being so gracious again this year and for helping so many in our community to have a truly special Christmas."

The Taos ISD office serves 5,200 families by providing various services including health care through Medicaid, food stamps, financial assistance and home heating.

LANLSC employee Ginger Grant has sponsored the event each year. In a note to LANLSC staff, she said, "Christmas is a journey of the heart, bringing peace and happiness to all. Every year you amaze me with your kindness and willingness to give to those less fortunate. I hope you know the joy you bring to these children. I know in my heart that your act of kindness is making a difference in our communities, our state, and beyond."

Staff from the Taos ISD office picked up the wrapped gifts from Los Alamos on Monday. They will distribute them to the participating families on Thursday, Dec. 20 from 11:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. Santa Claus will be on hand to help present the gifts to the children. The Taos ISD office is located at 145 Roy Road.

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