

**Gallery**  
of Plant City

**32ND ANNUAL SANTA SLED FESTIVAL**

On Saturday, December 17, hundreds of families gathered at the Sadye Gibbs Martin Community Center for the 32nd Annual Santa Sled Festival. The event is presented by the Plant City Black Heritage, Inc. and Des'Aimes Social Club. The festival provided toys, bicycles, groceries and clothing to families in need this holiday season. Kids had the opportunity to jump in bounce houses, go down an inflatable slide, and win a bicycle if their number was called in the raffle. The event provided a Christmas for many, so no family has to go without this holiday season.



**a.** The Santa Sled Festival was held at the Sadye Gibbs Martin Community Center. Organizer Sharon Moody said the event was held at the same site, when it was the former Martin Luther King Community Center. It only seemed right to bring the event back to where it all began 32 years ago.

**b.** Sharon Moody, right, is the organizer of the event. She speaks with a mom whose name was called to come forward for toys and diapers, wipes, and other baby items. Moody has organized this event for many years with the help of the board, volunteers, and sponsors.

**c.** Families were also given the opportunity to pick out clothes, donated by event sponsors, to cloth their families. These women are looking at black leggings and socks for girls.

**d.** High school Key Club members volunteered their time to pass out groceries, including these tomatoes provided by Feeding Tampa Bay. The Key Club members also distributed bread, chips, fruit, and salad kits, as well as meats.

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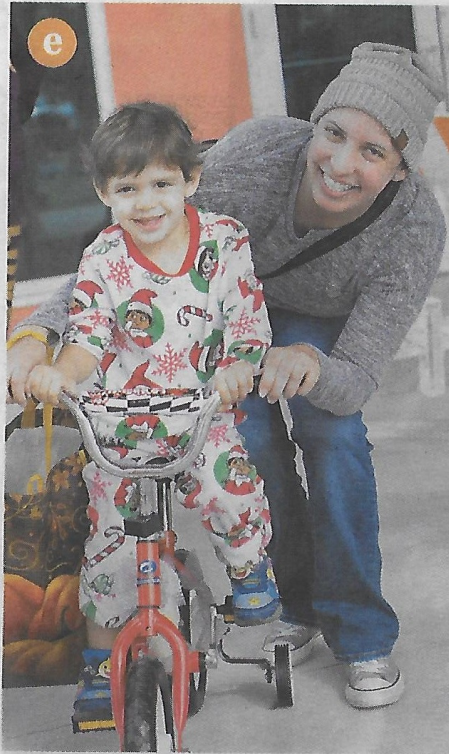


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**e.** The highlight of the event is the annual bike raffle. Each family is given a green ticket at check-in. If their ticket number is called, they come forward and pick up a bike. This festival little family won the last bike given out at the December 17th event.

**f.** The bikes were donated by event sponsors and ranged from toddler tri-cycles to bikes for teens. This boy chose a blue and a black bicycle.

**g.** A bounce house and inflatable slide was on site at the Santa Sled Festival to give the kids an opportunity to play while their parents picked up groceries provided for free for those who pre-registered.

**h.** Attendees were in the holiday spirit, including this young boy, who wore a Rudolph shirt to the event. His family was called forward to accept toys for him and his younger brother to share.

**i.** At registration, each family was given a number. As their number was called, they came forward to collect a bag of toys and other items they indicated they needed. At the 2022 event, 85 bags were made for Plant City families.