



P.O. Box 142, Daytona Beach, Florida 32115 ❖ 386.257.2297 ❖ Fax: 386.248.1985

[www.domesticabusecouncil.com](http://www.domesticabusecouncil.com)

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For Immediate Release:

For more information contact:

Lynn Kaiser Conrad

[lynn@domesticabusecouncil.com](mailto:lynn@domesticabusecouncil.com)

386-257-2297 ext. 22

Santa and his elves made a visit this year to the Domestic Abuse Council, Inc.'s emergency shelter to spread some holiday cheer and deliver gifts to the residents. The elves are all middle school students from New Smyrna Beach and Edgewater who are members of the Teens in Action youth group with the New Smyrna Beach United Church of Christ.

According to Pam Hopper, who has been the Youth Leader for the last 13 years, the group does a community service project each month. This one is by far is the largest project for the group. In addition to bringing over \$900.00 worth of presents, the group also laid out a holiday buffet.

"The youth coordinated the gifts by asking for donations or purchasing gifts. Some of the gifts came from the Community Toy Party, an annual event in New Smyrna Beach, where the youth group also volunteers," Hopper said.

This is the sixth year the Teens in Action youth group has chosen to support the Domestic Abuse Council. In addition to gathering presents, Hopper said that at a meeting in early December, the youth group had a meeting where they learned about domestic violence.

"Part of the mission and the purpose of Teens in Action is to help our young members develop a sense of gratitude for all they have. They are very community service minded and this is a great experience for the kids," Hopper said.

To learn more about Domestic Abuse Council go to [www.domesticabusecouncil.com](http://www.domesticabusecouncil.com). The Domestic Abuse Hotline is 1-800-500-1119.

END

#### Services

- ❖ Emergency Shelter ❖ Transitional Housing ❖ School Based Prevention Programs ❖
- ❖ Court/Legal Advocacy ❖ Community Education and Professional Training ❖



Members of the Teens in Action youth group with the New Smyrna Beach United Church of Christ.

Left To Right:

David, Andrew, Will, Noah, Will, Brynn, Santa, Ann Marie, Sylvie, Pamela, Emily