

Let them know it's Christmas time

By Renee Nadeau Algarin and Natalie Sherman
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'The donations help'

December 18, 2011- Christmas is brighter than last year for Roslindale resident Sabrina Green, because even though the 34-year-old mom can't give her daughter "every princess thing" after graduating from a job training program, she believes she is one step closer.

"Around this time last year, I really didn't know what was going to be my next step," said Green, who works part time as a personal-care assistant and completed a job-training course at Project Hope on Wednesday. "It feels better knowing that I have a plan going forward, so this time next year I will be able to say, 'OK, well I can give my daughter this.' "

Green, who is looking for full-time work and hopes to train as a pharmacist, will get a package of Christmas presents during Project Hope's gift exchange.

"My daughter wants a lot of things, but she also knows the position that we are in right now," Green said. "Some of us really cannot give what we want. ... The donations help us."

Project Hope collects gifts for the children of women involved in the programs, bringing a bit of holiday joy to 400 to 500 youngsters each Christmas. The toy drive ends tomorrow.

"The holidays can be stressful for anyone who may be going through a tough time and it kind of exacerbates whatever may not be working out so well, when there is so much attention put on material items," said Project Hope's Director of Development & External Affairs, Elizabeth Zarrella Maglio. "If people have a vision for their future and feel like they have a path to achieve that, then it makes the holidays that much brighter."

To donate, go to prohope.org.



JOB WELL DONE: Project Hope education and training coordinator Jennifer Frost, right, high fives graduate Sabrina Green of Roslindale