

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Board of County Commissioners*

12/05/18



## **Operation Santa Boat Well Underway**

**Okaloosa Island** – Operation Santa Boat received its first bulk gift of presents today, courtesy of Five Star Resorts and Saltwater Restaurants. More than 200 gifts were given in order to improve the holiday season for residents of Bay and Gulf Counties who received the brunt of Hurricane Michael in early October.

Operation Santa Boat, an initiative of Okaloosa County's Tourism Development Department, began after Commissioner Kelly Windes took the initial batch of hurricane supplies to a decimated eastern Panhandle immediately following Hurricane Michael's landfall.

Okaloosa County will continue to collect items at stations across the County until December the 15<sup>th</sup>. After the collection period Commissioner Windes will take the presents to the beleaguered Counties to the East.

If you wish to help – you can log on to [operationsantaboat.com](http://operationsantaboat.com) and donate via the Amazon wish list or you can bring gifts in person to one of our collection points.

Collection Points are on the website – [Operationsantaboat.com](http://Operationsantaboat.com)

**Please feel free to use attached photos.**

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