

Kalayah Jones: Hip hop artist a philanthropic spirit

Written by Abeni Hill



Kalayah Jones, 12, is a hip-pop artist with a philanthropic spirit.

Jones strives to promote positivity through her involvement in the community and through her music. This year, she is hosting her first holiday toy drive for the women and children of St. Anne's Place. The toy drive is titled "Elmo LOL Toy Drive" and is operating now until Dec. 27.

Jones chose Elmo as a theme because she knows children are drawn to the Sesame Street resident.

"I decided to have Elmo as a theme because kids really like Elmo," said Jones. "There is an Elmo LOL doll, and he laughs and they can just laugh along with him."

Jones plans to dress up in an Elmo costume when she delivers the toys to the shelter and will perform Elmo's song. For each Elmo doll donated, Prokop Insurance Agency will match it with a package of diapers.

The giving pre-teen wants to help more families have a better Christmas.

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"Sometimes kids don't get a lot for Christmas when they are homeless or live in a shelter and I wanted to change that," said Jones.

Jones' mother, Kimberly Holifield-Jones said her daughter has always loved to give back to the community.

"She always had it in her," said Holifield-Jones. She said her daughter loves to donate money and volunteer to benefit other people. Holifield-Jones they sometimes volunteer in the community by serving food at homeless shelters.

"I really like helping people," said Jones.

Jones is requesting members of the community to donate an unopened Elmo LOL doll to one of the drop-off sites – 125 Willow Bend, Crystal, 617 W. Lake St., Minneapolis or 644 Smith Ave., St. Paul. All of the sites are Prokop Insurance Agency locations.

To find out more about Jones' involvement with the community and her music, visit her website at www.kalayahjones.com .