

# PCCC Students Donate Toys to Local Learning Center



## The Sister Merita Learning Center is a Haven for Urban Youth

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*Tamiesha Gilzene of the LGBTS Club at PCCC  
transports bags of toys for a holiday donation to the  
Sister Merita Learning Center*

Students of the LGBTS Club (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender) Club chose the Sister Merita Learning Center at the Martin de Porres Village in Paterson as the recipient organization for their annual holiday toy drive.

The Learning Center is an after-school program offered to children of the Martin de Porres Village, a low-income housing development in Paterson. Sister Merita and Sister Christina of the Center, along with staff and volunteers, create a safe haven for the children who live in the buildings, away from the urban ills that surround them.

*Sister Merita shows the Center's  
collection of books to LGBTS Club  
President Jane Smith.*



At the Center, children enjoy learning activities, arts and crafts, and sports while practicing co-operation and good sportsmanship. They do their homework, use computers, converse with other students, enjoy a game room, and just have somewhere to go so that keeps them safe.

Sister Merita took three of the LGBTS members Jane Smith (President), Naheem Canady (Vice President), and Tamiesha Gilzene (club member), and Student Activities Director Doris Alcivar on a tour of the facility, when they arrived to deliver the toys.

Students reported that they even though Sister Merita doesn't have as much help as she needs, she still succeeds, through tireless fundraising, in supplying her children with necessities, and even with a few extras, like computer games "Hard work and keeping the faith pays off," she told them. \*\*\*