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Photo by Kevin Redding

The pile of donations from this year's Kevin's Holiday Angels Toy Drive.

Toy drive still warming hearts of those in need

BY KEVIN REDDING

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The spirit of giving was in full effect inside Phil's Restaurant in Wading River Nov. 29, as toys of all shapes and sizes piled up, ready to be delivered to children in need.

The large crowd of family, friends and community members gathered at the Cheersesque sports bar to donate toys to the Kevin Williams Foundation's 11th annual "Kevin's Holiday Angels" Toy Drive.

Mike and Patti Williams started the foundation in 2002 as a reaction to the passing of their 24-year-old son Kevin, who worked as a bonds salesman for Sandler O'Neill in Manhattan and was on the 104th floor of Tower Two when tragedy struck on Sept. 11, 2001. He was supposed to be married 10 weeks later. Patti Williams said that Kevin was "such a generous person" and always made others happy.

"He was the kind of person that, when you walked into the room, he would give you this smile that made you feel like the most important person," she said.

Kevin's childbood friend Brian Baumeister thinks that he would've loved how many lives KEVIN'S HOLIDAY ANGELS continued on page A8