



December 22, 2014

Local non-profits get surprise money *State Treasurer hands out checks worth thousands*

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. —Around the holidays, we're always reminded to be thankful for what we have. But what about what we didn't know we had? After Monday, five local non-profits can tell you all about it.

When the Vermont Treasurer entered the Special Olympics office Monday afternoon, she brought with her quite a surprise.

Beth Pearce traveled across the state delivering checks worth thousands of dollars. "So I have a check for you," Pearce said.

The YMCA, The Red Cross, Make a wish, Special Olympics and the Champlain Valley Expo were all on the list. The organizations had unclaimed property... in some cases lots of it.

"We see this as consumer protection, making sure the rightful owner gets their money back," Pearce said.

There's a lot of unclaimed property listed in the state data base: 67 million dollars in misplaced savings, investments, forgotten insurance policies or uncashed tax refunds. Though unexpected, this money belonged to the non-profits. It was indeed "unclaimed property." The windfall now providing an opportunity for the treasurer to get the word out about the unclaimed property others may have coming their way.

"It never even occurred to me that a business or a non-profit specifically would have unclaimed funds," said Lisa DeNatale of Special Olympics Vermont.

For non-profits this gift is viewed as "money from heaven!"

"As the weather gets colder, there are more and more fires and that's why to receive a gift like this at this point is just perfect timing. Could not be any better," said Larry Cist with the American Red Cross.

Now if you'd like to see if you have any missing money waiting for you, you can check it out online at MissingMoney.Vermont.gov.