

# INTOUCH

## Nicole's ready for MOTHERHOOD

Nicole Richie practiced her parenting skills before her big delivery

**D**ays before her baby's birth, a glowing Nicole Richie and her fiancé, Joel

Madden, made the holidays a little brighter for some underprivileged children. The pair's Richie-Madden Children's Foundation treated 200 kids from Beyond Shelter to a party at Paramount Studios in Los Angeles on December 22.

"We really wanted to give these kids a truly wonderful and special Christmas," says Nicole, 26, who smiled as she and Joel gave away pairs of Stride Rite shoes and Cloud B Cuddle Club teddy bears. It was a very special time for Nicole and Joel, 28, as they counted down the moments until their

own child was born. "They had such a good time at the event," says a witness. "Obviously, they were so happy to be around the children."

It's hard to believe that just a year ago, Nicole was at her lowest point, battling severe weight loss, too much partying and an arrest for DUI on December 11, 2006. "Today, Nicole has conquered her eating issues, cleaned up her lifestyle, completely stopped partying and has found God," says a family insider. "Now she'd rather go to church than shop."

And with their new baby, 2008 promises to be even better. "Nicole and Joel are getting married this year," says the insider. "They are madly in love. They're planning to spend the rest of their lives together, raising babies and making each other laugh."

### EVERYONE GOT GIFTS

Nicole and Joel created a mountain of 500 teddies to give away. "It seemed like they were having as much fun as the kids, maybe even more," says a witness.

# FOR THE NEW YEAR

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JESSICA SIMPSON  
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COUNTER CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: JEFF VESPA/WIREIMAGE.COM; RILLOBAZA/IFXONLINE

