



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

media release

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Holiday Season 2011

Franklin County Children Services *Holiday Wish* Brings Hope to more than 5,000 Abused and Neglected Youth

The kindness of strangers is what makes the holiday season a joyous time for many children who are under the care of Franklin County Children Services. These children, who may receive no gifts, look forward to receiving gifts bought especially for them by secret donors found through Children Services' *Holiday Wish* program.

It begins with a wish: each child wishes for a specific gift (valued at \$40).

For more than 40 years, *Holiday Wish* donors have made each child's wish come true by sponsoring individual children, making monetary donations, or by donating new toys. *Holiday Wish* is a unique gift-giving program because there are several options available to donors.

The child's wish comes true through the generosity of a donor who shops for the gift and delivers it to Children Services offices at 855 W. Mound St. Monetary donations up to \$50 each are also needed for youth 12 through 18 who receive gift cards. New toy donations of any kind are also welcome and in great demand.

The 5,000 children receiving gifts are under the care of Franklin County Children Services and may have suffered through a variety of abuses. They live with foster parents, relatives, their parents, or in residential care. Without the help of the community, these children may not experience the true spirit of giving and receiving.

Year after year, thousands of individuals, businesses, churches, and civic groups have come forward to help.

Donations to *Holiday Wish* may be considered tax deductible.

Donations are accepted online at www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services or by calling the *Holiday Wish* Hotline at (614) 275-2525. You may also email us at holidaywish@fccs.co.franklin.oh.us.

Holiday Wish progress can be followed on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube. Find out how you can help children enjoy the holiday season.

Call *Holiday Wish* at (614) 275-2525 or email holidaywish@fccs.co.franklin.oh.us.