



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

media release

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Holiday Season 2015

Franklin County Holiday Wish Program is Underway! Children Services Brings Hope to More Than 5,500 Children

Many children eagerly anticipate the coming holiday season. But for some, the holidays are not so festive. Many of these children are unable to spend the holidays with their families. Many are living in new surroundings.

For more than 50 years, Franklin County Children Services has granted the wishes of more than 168,000 children under the care of the agency. These are children who may have experienced abuse, neglect or other difficult home situations and rely on the generosity of the community to put the joy back into their holidays. Last year, the community provided gifts to more than 5,500 children. Year after year thousands of individuals, businesses, churches, and civic groups have come forward to help.

For many youth a donation from Holiday Wish is the only time all year that they will receive a new toy of their very own. They live with their parents, relatives, in foster care or in residential care. Without the help of the community, there is no guarantee these children will experience the true spirit of giving and receiving.

Holiday Wish is a unique gift-giving program because there are several options available to donors to help each child's wish come true. Donors can sponsor individual children, make monetary donations, or donate new toys. Children Services caseworkers deliver the gifts on their daily rounds in December.

The process begins with a wish. The child's specific wish (a gift valued at \$40) comes true through the generosity of a donor who shops for the gift and delivers it to Children Services at 855 W. Mound St. Monetary donations are needed for youth 12 through 18. New toy donations of any kind are also in great demand. All donations to Holiday Wish may be tax deductible.

Donations may be made by calling Holiday Wish at (614) 275-2525 or online at fccsholidaywish@franklincountyohio.gov. 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 send an email to holidaywish@fcss.us.