



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

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# media release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Franklin County Children Services Holiday Wish and the Malaika Mentoring Program hosts 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Black Girl Magic event on Dec. 5**



Join Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) Holiday Wish and Malaika (Meh-LIKE-a) Mentoring Programs for the **3<sup>rd</sup> annual Black Girl Magic toy drive from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at Copious, 520 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.** Guests are asked to bring a culturally specific holiday gift to help celebrate and promote self-love and acceptance for our black girls. Black Girl Magic, a toy drive under Holiday Wish, focuses primarily on the donation of culturally specific gifts; ethnic dolls, inspirational poetry, African-American books, ethnic hair care and skin care products.

Each year, Holiday Wish has struggled to meet the diverse and unique needs of our children, particularly African-American girls ages 8 through 11. With the belief that all children should receive gifts that reflect their culture and celebrate their uniqueness, Black Girl Magic was born.

The Dec. 5 event will focus on the disparities that young African-American girls face and grant opportunities for the community to get involved in a fun-filled evening with music, education, and inspiration. During this holiday season, Malaika Director Tonia Still, along with the Malaika Mentoring Program, are increasing efforts to solicit more culturally diverse toys through the Black Girl Magic toy drive and would like you to be a part of spreading the magic! Community partners include Synergi Salon, Copious, and A Cut Above the Rest Barber Shop and Making A Difference.

For more than 50 years, Holiday Wish has been granting the wishes of children under the care of FCCS. For more information on Black Girl Magic visit [childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov](http://childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov), call Holiday Wish at (614) 275-2525, or send an email to [holidaywish@fccs.us](mailto:holidaywish@fccs.us).