



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

media release

Holiday Season 2009

Franklin County Children Services Holiday Wish Brings Hope

As holiday tunes start playing on the radio, many children eagerly anticipate the coming season. But for some children, the holidays are not so festive. They wonder if they will be able to participate in the parties and gift sharing that so many enjoy.

Nearly 4,500 abused, neglected and troubled children in Franklin County may receive no gifts this holiday season without the help of the community. For more than 40 years Franklin County Children Services has asked the community to help fill the holiday wishes of children through the agency's Holiday Wish program. And year after year thousands of individuals, businesses, churches, and civic groups have come forward to help.

The children receiving the gifts are under the care of Franklin County Children Services and may have suffered through a variety of abuses. They live with foster parents, with relatives, with their parents, or in residential care. There is no guarantee that without the help of the community these children will experience the true spirit of giving and receiving.

This gift-giving program allows each child under the care of Children Services to wish for a specific gift. The child's wish comes true through the generosity of community donors. Each child through 11 years may ask for a gift worth \$40. Fifty dollar monetary donations are needed for each youth 12 through 18. Emergency toy donations and other cash donations are also needed. All donations to Holiday Wish are tax deductible. Donations are accepted online at www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services. This year, Holiday Wish progress can also be followed on Facebook.

For further
information
contact

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Community support is felt in many ways. Radio One stations (Magic 98.9, Power 107.5, and Joy 106.3) and CW on WWHO-TV help Holiday Wish by promoting the message to the community.

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.