



News Release

Annual Christmas in July Donation Drive Helps Broward County Homeless Children Prepare for Upcoming School Year

Date: June 13, 2008

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Christmas In July is an annual event held by Kiwanis Divisions 23 and 24 to help homeless children residing in Broward County. Residents of Broward County are being asked to help these children by donating new clothing, shoes, underwear and toys that will be distributed at the annual Christmas in July event on July 12.

Christmas In July provides homeless children with a fun-filled day away from homelessness along with new clothing, shoes and underwear. School aged children also received school supplies for the upcoming school year. By donating these items, residents of Broward County will help these children look just like their more fortunate classmates on the first day of school. Collection boxes will be in government buildings through July 3.

"I encourage everyone to give as generously as possible to Christmas in July this year," said Broward County Commissioner Ilene Lieberman, who is the Honorary Chair of 2008 Christmas in July event. "There is a greater need now more than ever to provide for the thousands of children who are homeless, either living in our shelters or on the street. Christmas in July provides a day of fun and entertainment and these children go home with new toys, clothes, socks, underwear, diapers, school supplies and the knowledge that people in our community care about them."

Every day thousands of children across the nation end up in homeless facilities or on the streets through no fault of their own - but due to unfortunate circumstances. There are several thousand homeless children enrolled in the Broward County School system annually. The goal of Christmas In July is to bring joy to these children's hearts as well as preparing them for the upcoming school year.

"Christmas in July provides so much for the children of families going through difficult economic times," said Broward County Mayor Lois Wexler. "Donations will provide these children with items they might otherwise go without. The need this year will be greater than ever. It is my hope that Broward County businesses and residents will once again contribute generously to this worthwhile event. Your gift will make a tremendous difference to a child's life."

Collection boxes are located at selected County facilities and at Broward County Libraries. To find the nearest branch, visit www.broward.org/library and click on the "Library Locations" button.

Collection boxes are located at the following Broward County facilities:

- Governmental Center Lobby - 115 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale
- Government Center West - 1 N. University Dr., Plantation
- North Regional Courthouse - 1600 W. Hillsboro Blvd., Deerfield Beach
- South Regional Courthouse - 3550 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood
- West Regional Courthouse - 100 N. Pine Island Rd., Plantation
- Main Courthouse - 201 S.E. 6th St., Fort Lauderdale
- Broward County Libraries

Please remember that only NEW items should be donated. The following is a list of suggested items for donation:

- Pants/Slacks/shorts
- Skirts/dresses
- Shirts
- Belts
- Socks
- Shoes
- Undergarments
- Baby clothing
- Diapers/wipes
- School supplies
- Books
- Games
- Toys

These items can be for a girl or boy ranging in age from infants to 18 years.

The number of children helped by Christmas in July has grown annually since its inception in 2002. Last year's effort helped clothe more than 900 homeless children.

Kiwanis Divisions 23 and 24 are also reaching out to the community for financial and in-kind support for Christmas in July. Sponsorship opportunities have been broken down into four levels with benefits that include posting company banners and company inclusion in all marketing materials. Those interested are asked to contact Dr. Celia Earle, Chair of Christmas in July, at 954-525-1665 or Holly Burton, Christmas in July Vice-Chair, at 954-712-4208.

Release Properties

Date: 6/17/2008 8:07 AM
Keywords: Community, Homeless
News Type: News Release

Released by the Office of Public Communications
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