



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Holiday donors reach out to Children's Services families**

Hamilton County Children's Services caseworkers are making their lists and preparing to choose from thousands of toys and gifts that have been donated for victims of child abuse and neglect.

Conference rooms at the agency's downtown and Walnut Hills locations are stuffed with thousands of gifts given by more than 100 local businesses, government organizations, schools, churches, and individuals. Over the next few days, caseworkers will cruise through the rooms on a mission to make the holidays happier for struggling families.

"The holidays can be an especially painful time for the families we're trying to help," said Laurie Petrie, spokesperson for the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services. Children's Services is the agency's child protection division. "Parents are trying to work on the problems that led to child abuse or neglect. Some children have to go into foster care or live with relatives. We want to thank our donors so much. Their generosity helps put smiles on children's faces and a sparkle in their eyes."

Job and Family Services employees volunteer to coordinate the gift drive, which has been held annually for more than 15 years. Employees also donate gifts by selecting ornaments from the agency's three "giving trees" – two for children and one for elderly clients.

Long-time donors include Xavier University, Kroger's Bakery Division, Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Greenhills, University of Cincinnati College of Education, Lazarus-Macy's, and RB Khatru Salon in Anderson Township. Some donors choose to provide gifts for entire families. This year sixteen individuals and organizations "adopted" 32 families, including 98 children.

Photo cutline: Tim Dingler, Judy Stadler and Chuck Knight, of the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services, unload a truck full of gifts for children from the Kroger Co., Bakery Division.

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