

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 22, 2017

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Photo 1: The Krahn Family, 2016 CCC Angel Award Individual winners

Photo 2: Poplar Creek Elementary School Student Council, 2016 CCC Angel Award community group winners

Photo 3: Left, Donna Gainer, CCC board member; Right, Andy Fix, owner of Won-A-Go Biking, 2016 CCC Angel Award business winner

Christmas Clearing Council announces Angel Award winners; partners with Wisconsin Philharmonic to honor them at holiday concert and toy drive

WAUKESHA, WI – With its 2017 season in full operational mode, the Christmas Clearing Council (CCC) of Waukesha County announced the 2016 recipients of its annual Angel Awards that recognize people, businesses, organizations and groups for their strong dedication and support on behalf of CCC. Recent CCC Angel Award winners will be recognized at the Wisconsin Philharmonic “Northern Lights” holiday concert and toy drive on December 5 at Carroll University’s Shattuck Auditorium.

CCC established the annual Angel Awards in 2006 to recognize those in the community who, through special acts of generosity, further the CCC mission of helping families celebrate a more joyful Christmas. Each year the CCC board of directors selects an outstanding community organization, youth group, business and individual to receive the award.

“Northern Lights” Concert and Toy Drive

“This year we are especially pleased to partner with the Wisconsin Philharmonic at their holiday concert that will feature a toy drive benefitting CCC. We are grateful to get an opportunity to honor our present and past Angel Award winners in attendance during intermission of the concert,” explains CCC’s board president, Becky Brock.

“We will be reaching out to our 2015 and 2016 Angel Award winners to invite them to this very special concert to be recognized. We are also encouraging all our previous Angel Award winners and community supporters to attend and share this wonderful holiday event,” Brock adds.

CCC will be collecting new unwrapped toys and \$15 and \$25 gift certificates to local stores in the lobby before the concert. The toys will stock the shelves of CCC’s annual one-day Toy Shop where parents select toys for the estimated 1,000 children who are not sponsored through CCC’s personal giving program. In addition to helping making Christmas brighter for families in need, those attending the concert and donating toys will receive a voucher for a future Wisconsin Philharmonic concert.

2016 CCC Angel Award Winners

The following recipients received the Angel Award for the CCC 2016 season in separate presentations: The Krahn Family, Waukesha – Individual Award; Poplar Creek Elementary School Student Council, New Berlin – Youth Award; River Glen Christian Church, Waukesha – Community Group; and Won-A-Go Biking, Mukwonago – Business Award.

In memory of their daughter Allison, Mark and Beth Krahn, along with their sons, Jacob, Nicholas, Christopher and Benjamin have sponsored several children in CCC program families experiencing financial hardship. They also have consistently volunteered at the CCC Toy Shop for many years from setup to cleanup. Their personal example of philanthropy and community volunteerism has inspired their young sons to do the same.

Poplar Creek Elementary School Student Council members have volunteered to help sort toys at the CCC Toy Shop for many years. Long-time supporters of CCC's mission, Poplar Creek students also held a toy drive in 2009 and sponsored 12 children in 2011.

River Glen Christian Church has been a valued partner of CCC over the past decade. The church community has held toy drives since 2009, resulting in nearly two-dozen boxes to stock CCC Toy Shop each year. Church members have always been receptive to donating in-demand items specifically requested by CCC.

Andy Fix, owner of Won-A-Go Biking, performs a very important function for the families at CCC's Toy Shop that select one of the approximately 100 bikes CCC buys each year. A group of enthusiastic amateur volunteers assembles the new bikes shipped from across the country. Fix, along with colleagues he recruits from other bike shops, painstakingly check each bike to ensure it is road-worthy and safe to be ridden.

About Wisconsin Philharmonic "Northern Lights" Concert and Toy Drive

The concert will be performed on Tuesday, December 5 at Shattuck Auditorium at Carroll University at 7:30 p.m. A family tradition, the concert will feature favorite holiday music from carols to traditional to popular. Those donating toys will receive a voucher for a future Wisconsin Philharmonic concert. Special ticket pricing is available for \$15 with code "Lights17" at www.wisphil.org/Lights 17 or by calling 262-547-1858.

About Christmas Clearing Council

In existence for 68 years, the Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County is a nonprofit group that matches needy families with individuals and groups who want to help on a person-to-person basis during the holiday season. Families who are not matched with sponsors are invited to CCC's annual Toy Shop, stocked with donated items, to shop for their children. In 2016 more than 4,200 Waukesha County children from more than 1,800 families experienced the joy of the holiday season because of the efforts of CCC and its volunteers, donors and sponsors.

For more information about drop-off locations, volunteering or sponsoring a family, call 262-896-3390 or visit www.christmasclearingcouncil.org. Look for CCC on Facebook and Twitter.