

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Christmas Clearing Council Highlights Families in Need; Seeking Sponsors to Make Season Brighter

WAUKESHA, WIS. — For most of us, the upcoming Christmas season is one of joy and happy anticipation. However, parents without means in our community often look upon the season with sadness and anxiety, as they are unable to fulfill their children's Christmas wishes. Fortunately, the Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County (CCC) is offering a sponsorship program that matches these families in need with individuals, families, groups, organizations and businesses in the community this Christmas season.

Says Ruth Jones, CCC's executive director, "To have their children's wishes fulfilled is every parent's hope for Christmas. Our goal each year is to have as many children as possible sponsored through our personal giving program. Sponsors make a personal connection with families they help and experience firsthand the joy of this season of giving."

Jones reports there are 800 children still in need of sponsors. CCC is still accepting applications and the number of children needing sponsors will continue to grow. The organization has gone through its case files to highlight a few families still waiting for a sponsor and remind the public they have until December 8 to sponsor a family. For those willing to sponsor, CCC will match them with a family in need. Sponsorship means a commitment to spend at least \$75.00 per child on new toys or new clothes to fulfill a child's wish list and provide some needed items. This giving opportunity involves the sponsor personally contacting the family for the children's wish lists, shopping, wrapping and delivering the gifts by December 13. Families in need of a sponsor include:

Father asking for help for his four children, three boys, ages 8, 9 and 17 and a 13-year old daughter: He is hoping to fulfill his children's wishes for Legos, games, books and clothes and toys and cars for his 9-year old. (Case #65870)

Grandfather raising his two grandsons, ages 8 and 10: His grandchildren would like remote control cars, dinosaurs and sports gear. (Case #48298)

Mom and dad requesting help for two girls, ages 1 and 6 and a baby due this month: They are asking for clothes, diapers, craft activities and a gift card for a family activity. (Case #57080)

Mother of a 10-year old daughter: She is wishing for pajamas, new sheets and Dora DVDs. (Case #28301)

Those interested in sponsoring families in need should call the CCC office by December 8 at 262-896-3390 (those interested in sponsoring any of the above families should reference the case numbers when calling). CCC will accept calls Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. and beginning November 20, Monday evenings from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

CCC offers several ways for the community to help the organization fulfill its mission, including sponsoring a child or family; donating new, unwrapped toys or hats, mittens and scarves at any of the CCC toy sites (from November 1 to December 13) or directly donating money or gift cards. Groups are also encouraged to initiate service projects to raise money or collect toys. A complete list of CCC community toy sites, as well as a wish list items of particular need, can be found on

the CCC website. Those interested in learning more about CCC and ways to support its mission, including volunteering, are encouraged to call 262-896-3390, visit www.christmasclearingcouncil.org or look for CCC on Facebook and Twitter.

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.