



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHARING THE SPIRIT HOLIDAY PARTY

A Christmas Party for 520 Homeless Children in Orange County, California

Friday, December 14th in Santa's Village at South Coast Plaza

Costa Mesa, Calif. (December 13, 2012) - 520 underprivileged Orange County children will experience some holiday cheer at a Christmas party just for them. The event, called "Sharing the Spirit" is being co-hosted by Festival of Children Foundation and The Happiness Project and will take place at South Coast Plaza on Friday, December 14th at 9:00 p.m., after the shopping center closes to regular business.

Boys and girls, ages 3-16, from shelters and motels in Anaheim, Garden Grove, Orange, Tustin and Santa Ana, California will be picked up on buses and driven to the South Coast Plaza shopping center. Upon arrival they will each be matched with a volunteer who will accompany them through a variety of activities including photos with Santa, reindeer carousel rides, arts and crafts, nail, hair and beauty stations, and face painting. They'll enjoy food generously donated by Boudin S/F, Chick-Fil-A, Corner Bakery, Quattro Caffé, Wahoo's Fish Taco, and ZPizza.

South Coast Plaza retailers are "Sharing the Spirit" too. Sanrio's Hello Kitty mascot will be in attendance, the LEGO store will host a mini model build, Puzzle Zoo will have a craft station, Bare Minerals will apply makeup and glitter to girls in attendance, the Microsoft Store will set up Xbox and Kinect stations for the kids in attendance to play, and Forever 21 generously donated trendy accessories for the gift bags,. Element skateboard rider Nyjah Huston will be on hand at the I Ride I Recycle craft station, and Olympian Tumua Anae from the USA Women's Water Polo team will also be in attendance. 350 volunteers, many the sons and daughters of Young Presidents Organization (YPO) members, will ensure that the evening runs smoothly, while learning firsthand about philanthropy and giving back to the community. At the end of the evening, every child in attendance will receive an age and gender appropriate gift bag full of toys, school supplies, gift cards toiletries and clothing.

The Happiness Project, which assists underprivileged children with basic needs such as clothing and school supplies throughout the year, has been involved with the holiday party for six years now. "We have so many incredible children signed up to attend this event. These children are from all parts of Orange County and all are so grateful for the opportunity to come to this party and get a big bag with presents. The excitement on the busses on the way in to the event is unlike anything you've ever heard before. The kids are cheering and singing songs and anxious to arrive to the event. For most of these children, this is their Christmas Day and the only presents they will receive," said Lindsay Dickhout, Executive Director of The Happiness Project.

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About Festival of Children Foundation

Festival of Children Foundation is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization that serves to bring together and coordinate the efforts of charities, companies and individuals who actively work to improve the lives of children. Festival of Children Foundation gives a voice, guidance and support. 100% of the administrative costs are covered by designated funding, allowing donations to go further in direct support of programs and services that improve the lives of children. For more information, visit www.FestivalofChildren.org.

About The Happiness Project

The Happiness Project is a 501 c 3 legal non-profit based in Orange County, California. Their mission is to help disadvantaged and homeless children in Orange County by providing them with basic essentials that will allow them to live a healthy life, be able to attend school, never go unfed, and to have a bright future with many opportunities. For more information, visit www.HelpOCKids.org.

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