



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **SHARING THE SPIRIT HOLIDAY PARTY**

### **A Christmas Party for Homeless Children in Orange County, California**

***Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> in Santa's Village at South Coast Plaza***

**Costa Mesa, Calif.** - 450 underprivileged children will experience some holiday cheer at a Christmas party being organized just for them at South Coast Plaza on Friday, December 9, 2011, after the shopping center closes to regular business. The event, called "Sharing the Spirit" is being organized by Festival of Children Foundation, The Happiness Project, and Young Presidents Organization in conjunction with Miley Cyrus and her charity "Get Ur Good On."

Miley and her foundation are passionate about youth homelessness. "Nearly 1.7 million people under the age of 18 will experience homelessness this year. I want to help young people raise awareness and address youth homelessness," said Ms. Cyrus. Her charity, "Get Ur Good On," encourages youth to support each other in their missions to do "good" in their communities.

Homeless youth, ages 3-18, from Anaheim, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Garden Grove and Santa Ana, California will be brought on buses to the South Coast Plaza shopping center. As each child departs the bus they'll be matched with a volunteer who will accompany them through a variety of activities including photos with Santa, rides on the reindeer carousel, arts and crafts, nail, hair and beauty stations, and face painting. At the end of the evening, every child will be given a bag full of gifts gender and age specific for each of them.

South Coast Plaza retailers are "Sharing the Spirit" too. The Microsoft Store will be converted into a teen lounge equipped with video games and music. Sanrio's Hello Kitty mascot will be at the party meeting and greeting the kids. The LEGO store will host a craft table where the children can each build a LEGO mini model to take home with them. Sephora Beauty Studio artists will be on hand to give the girls in attendance a "beauty-full" holiday experience. Over 200 volunteers, many the sons and daughters of Young Presidents Organization (YPO) members, will ensure that the event is a success.

Young Presidents Organization, a group of community leaders, joined the collaborative effort as part of its initiative to teach their children about giving back to the community. "It is a real honor to work on this event with our families to ensure that children without homes have an outstanding holiday experience. There is no better gift than seeing the smiles on these kids' faces as they participate in this party and realize that they are special people who deserve their own celebration. That is what the holiday season is all about," said Brian Murphy, President of Athletes First.

(more)

## **Sharing the Spirit Holiday Party for Homeless Children – 2 – 2 – 2**

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 four years now. “There are 22,000 children living in Orange County that are considered homeless. There are 1,000 children living in Orange County that are the most vulnerable and living the transient life. We work to help all children in need in our community but especially these 1,000 children. This event is much more than a 4 hour party for these children. It is a night of fun, magic, hope and celebration. Each child receives a large gift bag packed with toys, books, clothing, shoes, school supplies, life essentials and food gift cards. The impact of this event lasts much longer than a single evening.” said Lindsay Dickhout, Executive Director of The Happiness Project.

“These children deserve a magical evening that they will always remember. It’s fun to watch advantaged children serve in their communities and learn about leadership and philanthropy at a young age,” ” added Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, Founder of Festival of Children Foundation.

Festival of Children Foundation would like to thank Verizon Wireless for helping to sponsor the “Sharing the Spirit” holiday party.

### **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](http://www.FestivalofChildren.org).

### **About Get Ur Good On**

Get Ur Good On™ is a program of Youth Service America, an organization that connects youth and their friends with volunteer and community service opportunities. Youth Service America (YSA) envisions a global culture of engaged children and youth committed to a lifetime of service, learning, leadership, and achievement. The impact of YSA’s work through service and service-learning is measured in student achievement, workplace readiness, and healthier communities. Learn more at [www.GetUrGoodOn.org](http://www.GetUrGoodOn.org) and at [www.YSA.org](http://www.YSA.org).

### **About Young Presidents Organization (YPO)**

YPO is a not-for-profit, global network of young chief executives connected around the shared mission of becoming Better Leaders Through Education and Idea Exchange™. Founded in 1950, YPO today provides 17,000 peers and their families in 100 countries with access to unique experiences, world-class resources, alliances with top learning institutions, and specialized Networks that help them enhance their business, community and personal leadership. For more information, visit [www.YPO.org](http://www.YPO.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](http://www.HelpOCKids.org).