



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Beverly J. Morgan, APR  
[bmorgan@festivalofchildren.org](mailto:bmorgan@festivalofchildren.org)

## **SHARING THE SPIRIT HOLIDAY PARTY**

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

***Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> in Santa's Village at South Coast Plaza***

**Costa Mesa, Calif. (December 6, 2013)** - 600 underprivileged children will experience some holiday cheer at a Christmas party being organized just for them at South Coast Plaza on Friday, December 6, 2013, from 9:00 p.m. until midnight, after the shopping center closes to regular business. The event, called "Sharing the Spirit Holiday Party" is being organized by Festival of Children Foundation and The Happiness Project.

Homeless youth, ages 5-16, from Anaheim, 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 makeup stations, and face painting. They'll enjoy food generously donated by Aloha Plate (recent winner of Food Network's Great Food Truck Race), Chick-Fil-A, Crème de la Crème, Quattro Caffé and Whole Foods Market Newport Beach.

South Coast Plaza retailers are "Sharing the Spirit" too. Sanrio's Hello Kitty will help supervise their sand painting craft table. At LEGO, children can build a LEGO mini model to take home with them. Puzzle Zoo is providing 'Creativity for Kids' craft projects for boys and girls, and Calico Critters' Bell Hopscotch Rabbit will meet the kids in attendance. Bare Minerals makeup artists will offer some holiday sparkle for the girls, and the Microsoft store will set up Xbox and Kinect stations. 390 volunteers, will be on hand to ensure that the event is a success.

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. "This event is much more than a 3 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 also important that 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 the Center for Living Peace for helping to sponsor the "Sharing the Spirit" holiday party.

**(more)**

**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 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).

**About Center for Living Peace**

Center for Living Peace is founded on the belief that “good happens”-- that one kind act can inspire a multitude of good deeds. The Center for Living Peace offers a variety of community programs, events and service opportunities that give back and make Good Happen in the community. This thread of service through our programming connects you to the local community and empowers you to be a part of the solution in your neighborhood and feel inspired to make a difference. For more information, visit [www.goodhappens.org](http://www.goodhappens.org).

###