



PRESS RELEASE

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**Contact: Sasheika Eugent
Community & Public Relations Specialist
(954) 288-5161**

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN COULD HURT HOLIDAY DONATIONS FOR TEENS

Plantation, FL – This year is proving an especially challenging one for those who seek holiday donations for Broward County’s abused, abandoned and neglected children. The national and local economic downturn is making it increasingly likely that ChildNet’s Annual Holiday Gift Drive will generate fewer gifts than usual for local foster children, particularly teenagers. In the face of such a challenge ChildNet is expanding its appeals and intensifying its efforts to make the holiday wishes of foster children come true.

Suzanne Baker, ChildNet’s In-Kind Coordinator, is concerned that the tough economic climate will put a damper on donations for the almost 2300 children in care who need holiday gifts. “In previous years, each child received three gifts, now we may only be able to give one or two gifts per child,” said Suzanne. She adds that while she is receiving toys for the younger children, she particularly needs gifts for teenagers. “Teens are usually harder to shop for so we tend to receive fewer gifts for them,” adds Suzanne.

The Holiday Gift Drive will be accepting unwrapped toys until December 22nd. For more information about the drive contact Suzanne Baker at (954) 873-1832. Below is a list of popular gifts for teens in foster care.

Target or Wal-Mart Gift Cards	Portable DVD Player
CD Boombox	MP3 Player
Fashion Jewelry	Prepaid Cell Phone or prepaid minutes

ChildNet is the private, not for profit organization selected by the state through a competitive process to serve as the local Community Based Care lead agency. As the lead agency, ChildNet manages the local system of services and supports for Broward’s abused, abandoned and neglected children and their caregivers. This system of care was developed with extensive input from local stakeholders and its effective implementation depends upon their continued support. For more information on ChildNet visit the website at www.ChildNet.us or call (954) 414-6000.

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