



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Toys & Volunteers Needed at Catholic Charities of Merced

Organization seeking community support to provide hope to families in need this holiday season

(MERCED, CA) – Catholic Charities of Merced is calling on the community for support in collecting toys for kids ages 0-12 years old in preparation for their annual Christmas for Kids Event being held on Friday, December 21st. Through the community's support, it is their hope that they will be able to serve 160 children this year.

This annual event offers the opportunity for struggling families to experience the joy of Christmas with face painting, arts and crafts, special appearances from Santa and a toy distribution right there at the Catholic Charities site. Catholic Charities will be accepting donations Monday through Friday from 8:00am – 4:30pm until Thursday, December 20th and are located at 336 W. Main Street, Merced, CA 95340.

The organization is also looking for volunteers to assist them with daily services throughout the busy holiday months. Students, retirees and all those who have any amount of time to spare are all invited to consider volunteering in order to help provide hope to families less fortunate. To learn how you can get involved, please call (209) 383-2494.

Catholic Charities of Merced is a Community Benefit Organization serving the needs of those in crisis. Families experiencing difficult economic times are invited to seek assistance from Catholic Charities year-round in the form of food, clothing and other basic necessities.

During the holiday season, it is especially important to think of children and these families less fortunate. Catholic Charities clients include those from all walks of life, from any faith or background, including those who can barely make it paycheck to paycheck, those who may have lost their home to a fire, those who have recently taken in a family member, and so many others.

Annually, Catholic Charities provides services to over 140,000 clients through sites in Fresno, Bakersfield and Merced. They hold highly coveted ratings on Charity Navigator and GuideStar for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency and \$0.90 of every dollar donated goes directly to programs and services.