



For Immediate Release

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Operation Holiday Toy Drive

Merced - The Bus is once again partnering with the Merced County Sheriff's Department and Merced County Human Services Agency for Operation Holiday Toy Drive to benefit children in Merced County this holiday season.

"The Bus is very excited to participate in the 'Stuff the Bus' event again this year," said Transit Manager Rich Green. "This is an opportunity to provide gifts for children and teens in need, to help make their holidays a little happier" Green said.

The Bus will be located at the Walgreens parking lot on the corner of G and Olive in Merced on Saturday, December 3, 2016 from 7:00am-2:00pm to collect donations of new, unwrapped toys from the public. Cash donations, as well as, new coats and blankets will also be accepted. For those who are interested in donating but are unable to make it to the toy drive, barrel sites are located throughout the county.

"We have been helping the foster children and less fortunate families of Merced County receive a gift for the holiday season for the past 17 years" said CJ Jones with Merced County Human Services Agency. "For many pre-teens and teens, the only gift they get is from our toy drive" Jones said. The pre-teen to teen age group (9-19) continues to be a large percentage of the children benefiting from the program, making sports equipment such as soccer balls, footballs, baseballs and bats, exceptionally helpful donations. Toiletry gift sets for boys and girls also continue to be popular.

"Being able to bring a smile to a young person's face and fill their hearts with joy through a small act of service, such as giving gifts, makes all the difference" said Sgt. Delray Shelton, Merced County Sheriff's Office. "Being able to participate in OHTD, reaffirms why we chose the profession of law enforcement."

All donations will benefit children in Merced County. For more information about the toy drive, please contact CJ Jones with Merced County Human Services Agency at (209) 385-3000 extension 5285.

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