



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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News Release

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MERCYHEALTH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION HOSTS TOY DRIVE FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS AT NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR

Toys are distributed year-round to playrooms, therapy departments, and waiting areas

ROCKFORD, Illinois—Mercyhealth is excited to announce it will be spreading holiday cheer to pediatric patients with its annual **Holiday Toy Drive, Thursday, December 12**, sponsored by the Mercyhealth Development Foundation. **This year's event will be held at a new location, Café Merci in the lower level of Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital–Riverside**, 8201 E. Riverside Blvd., Rockford. Festivities begin at 7:30 am with breakfast, holiday music by the Boylan Catholic High School Octaves, heartwarming patient stories and a special visit from Santa!

You can help brighten our patients' spirits by:

- Bringing new toys to the Toy Drive breakfast on December 12 at Javon Bea Hospital–Riverside (a suggested list of toys can be found at mercyhealthtoydrivewishlist.org)
- Dropping off new toys at various sites including: *Mercyhealth Hospitals* in Rockford, Janesville, Lake Geneva and Harvard (for exact locations, go to: mercyhealthtoydrive.org); Rockford Area: *Foundation Office* (Ingersoll Building, 2400 N. Rockton Ave.; *Starbucks* (E. State Forest Plaza, N. Perryville, N. Bell School); *Meg's Daily Grind* (N. Alpine & N. Perryville); *Mary's Market* (E. State, N. Alpine & N. Perryville); *Williams Tree Farm* (4661 Yale Bridge Rd., Rockton)
- Making a monetary donation as an individual or corporate sponsor by visiting: mercyhealthtoydrive.org.
- Organizing your own toy drive for the event (for more information, call (815) 971-4146)

As the only state-designated Children's Hospital in northern Illinois, Javon Bea Hospital–Riverside offers the region's most advanced care for infants, children and adolescents. Children who are ill, injured, or have special needs can benefit tremendously from toy donations. Toys, games and multi-sensory equipment help distract, soothe and entertain young patients who are hospitalized or undergoing tests and procedures. These fun, interactive and comforting items are distributed year-round to playrooms, therapy departments, and waiting areas at Mercyhealth, and are also given as gifts to hospitalized children during the holidays.

If you are interested in attending the Toy Drive, please RSVP by Dec. 5 by calling (815) 971-4146 or emailing mophilips@mhemail.org. Sponsorship opportunities are available by visiting mercyhealthtoydrive.org.

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Note to media: Following the Toy Drive breakfast on Dec. 12, Santa will be delivering the toys collected to patients on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Pediatric Unit of Javon Bea Hospital–Riverside. Please call (815) 971-4144 or email ahagney@mhemail.org if you are interested in getting footage of this event.