

REEN LITY COULCIL

October 2017

Dear Friends of Summit County Children Services:

The Holidays are all about the children we serve, and we are thankful for your continued interest in and support for our various Holiday Programs. We appreciate our partnership with you in helping to make the holidays more joyous for the children and families. Last year, nearly 2,200 children received holiday gifts through our Holiday Toy Room Program or were 'adopted' by donors who provided holiday gifts for specific children. In addition, more than 60 needy families received grocery store gift cards for family holiday meals.

As we begin to plan for this year's Holiday season, we respectfully ask for your support again for one or more of the programs listed below.

### 2017 Holiday Toy Room Program

For many caregivers, clients, foster parents and grandparents, selecting a new toy or gift donated to the agency's Holiday Toy Room for the children in their care makes a tremendous difference to their holidays. *New toys and gifts for school-age girls, teens and infants are especially needed (a list of suggested ideas is enclosed).* Since the Toy Room opens November 29, donations made before this date are very much appreciated!

### 2017 Adopt-A-Family Program

Through this program, donors 'adopt' a child/family and provide (suggested) gifts for individual children who are from families with overwhelming financial needs. Each child develops a 'wish list' of reasonably priced items, and donors purchase, wrap and deliver the gifts to the agency on or before Friday, December 8.

### 2017 Grocery Gift Card Program

Families in need often have difficulty providing for family meals towards the end of the month, especially during the holidays. This program helps to ensure that children and their families will have food during this Holiday season. Donations of \$20 or \$25 gift cards are needed.

**NOTE:** In the event that financial contributions exceed what is needed for this specific program, Summit County Children Services will use all remaining contributions to directly benefit children served by the agency.

These programs are supported entirely by community donations, and we invite you and/or your company or group to consider helping with one or more programs this year. Please contact the Community Relations Department at (330) 379-1994 or send an email to <a href="mailto:sdeluca@summitkids.org">sdeluca@summitkids.org</a>. We sincerely thank you for your continued generosity and support for children and families in Summit County.

Sincerely,

Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW Executive Director



# 2017 Holiday Toy Room Program

Children served by Summit County Children Services need special care ... and you can help! Please consider donating NEW toys or gift cards for a child this holiday season.

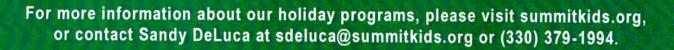
Through the agency's **Holiday Toy Room Program**, family caregivers, such as foster parents, grandparents and other relatives, are able to select gifts for the children in their care. For many of these families, this extra support makes a tremendous difference.

# Donations are needed immediately!

So that gifts can be available while the Toy Room is open, please drop off donations between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., seven days a week, through December 22 to:

Summit County Children Services 264 S. Arlington Street, Akron 44306

NOTE: The entrance is at the intersection of S. Arlington Street and Martin Avenue (at the stop light). Once through the gates, please veer right and pull up in front of the main administration building.



# **Holiday Toy Room Giving Ideas**

### PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TOYS AND GAMES FOR:

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Minions, Star Wars, Captain Underpants, My Little Pony, Frozen, Wonder Woman & other Marvel/DC characters

# Tweens & Teens\*

\*Greatest need items are in red

Ask a teen friend for additional ideas! We have more teens in care than children in any other age group.

- Body pillows and pillow cases\*
- Brightly colored slippers\*
- Ear buds and flashdrives\*
- Headphones\*
- Speakers (to connect to phones)\*
- Electronics of any kind, under \$25\*
  (portable CD, DVD and MP3 players)
- Infinity scarves\*
- Sports jerseys (L & XL)\*
- Sports Balls
- Sports equipment, sleds, snowboards
- Fabric-covered bulletin boards
- Brightly colored throw pillows—animal prints, feathers, etc.
- Scarf/glove/headband sets—funky colors and designs
- Board games
- Gift cards to teen-favored stores,
  department stores and fast food restaurants

# **School-Age Children**

\*Greatest need items are in red

- Dolls\* (all ethnicities)
- Doll accessories\*
- Large cars & trucks\*
- Minion toys\*
- Star Wars toys\*
- Activity books\*
- Inside Out toys\*
- Puzzles\*
- Craft kits\*
- Action figures\*

- Blocks, Lincoln Logs
- Board games
- LEGOS sets
- Transformers
- Hand-held games
- Smaller-sized sports balls
- Winter sports items
- Gift cards

## **Infants & Toddlers**

\*Greatest need items are in red

- Baby dolls\* (all ethnicities)
- Baby blocks\*
- New stuffed animals\*
- Educational toys\*
- Infant care items\*
- · Cloth or board books\*
- Large size cars and trucks\*

- Hand-held toys &
  - Bathtub toys
- Wooden puzzles
- Plastic food and toy dish
  - sets

NOTE: We no longer accept donations of used stuffed animals.

