

PRESS RELEASE

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Project Santa Program Asks For Community Support

Macomb, Illinois, November 5, 2009 – “The Project Santa Program is community driven,” says Western Illinois Regional Council Executive Director Suzan Nash. “We have organizations, churches, student groups, sororities, fraternities and individuals who sponsor families and children and make financial contributions every year, and every year we need to continue asking for their support. It is because of this support that the Project Santa Program has continued to bring a happy holiday to families in Hancock, Henderson, McDonough and Warren counties,” continued Nash.

Many of the families enrolled in the program live below the poverty level and struggle to provide the basic necessities for their families much less provide a happy holiday for their children...thus, many families go without. This year, families who have never had to participate in programs such as Project Santa have now found, due to the economy, that they need assistance. As one mother said, “If it were not for Project Santa, my children would not be able to smile on Christmas morning.”

Last year, 130 families and 310 children were served by Project Santa, and this year may exceed those numbers. Over 2,000 gifts including winter coats, mittens and hats, and food baskets were delivered. “We hope that we will have the same community participation in wrapping gifts. Without the community’s help, it is almost impossible to have the gifts ready to be delivered by Santa,” says Project Santa Coordinator Teresa Cadle.

Donations can be dropped off or sent to the Western Illinois Regional Council-Community Action Agency (WIRC-CAA) office at 223 South Randolph Street in Macomb, 61455. For more information or to volunteer to wrap packages call, (309) 837-2997.