



Metropolitan Family Service

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December 3, 2008

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MEDIA ALERT

Metropolitan Family Service Celebrates the Holiday Season with Gifts and Toys for Those in Need.

Portland, OR—December 3, 2008— Metropolitan Family Service sponsors two holiday events in December. This weekend, we kick off the season with Holiday Cheer, a volunteer event that creates gift bags for seniors and people with disabilities. On December 22nd, our Holiday Toy Store will open to provide toys for local families in need through community donations.

Volunteers and staff gather for a festive day of gift wrapping as part of the Metropolitan Family Service holiday tradition, Holiday Cheer. On December 6th, volunteers will assemble at Madeline Parish in NE Portland to sort and wrap gifts to fill hundreds of gift bags. Volunteers continue to deliver gift bags to isolated older adults and people with disabilities through the end of the year.

In December, individuals and businesses donate new, unwrapped toys to Metropolitan Family Service for our annual Holiday Toy Store. During the week of December 22nd, families who have contacted MFS will be able to arrange an appointment to “shop” the Toy Store. “Families who visit the Toy Store are able to select a gift for each of their children,” says Jarrine Shaw, project coordinator. “There are gifts for children of all ages, including teens, whose needs are sometimes overlooked.” Children of low income families will receive a gift bag or toy to brighten their holidays.

Background Information:

About Metropolitan Family Service (MFS): For more than half a century, Metropolitan Family Service has played a vital role in the lives of children, families, and older adults. We provide services at more than 100 sites, including more than 80 schools. Metropolitan Family Service makes connections that strengthen the lives of 32,000 individuals and families each year. Metropolitan Family Service’s 1,700 skilled and caring volunteers contribute 165,000 hours in the tri-county area, a value to the community of \$2.5 million.

For more information on this event, contact Pat Kaczmarek, Marketing & Communications Manager, at 503.232.0007, ext. 170 or patk@metfamily.org, or visit www.metfamily.org

STRENGTHENING
FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS
WHILE ENHANCING
THEIR PARTICIPATION
IN COMMUNITY LIFE