



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boy Brings the Spirit of Christmas to Toronto's Needy Children

Toronto – *November 25, 2005.* More than 300 families will receive support from the Hope for Children Foundation's Annual Christmas Season Adopt-a-Family campaign this December. The program provides toys, gift certificates for a hot meal, warm winter clothing and a great deal of Christmas spirit to Toronto's children and families in need. Many of the families served by the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS) live in poverty and have limited resources. Through the program, they will receive assistance to help celebrate the holidays like other families. The Adopt-a-Family program brings the spirit of the season to families who are "adopted" by supporters of the program.

Eight year-old, Devlin, is the youngest supporter of the Adopt-a-Family program. He has been contributing to the program for three years, since asking his grandmother to donate to needy children and families in lieu of buying him Christmas gifts. "I have so many toys", said the philanthropic boy. "I know there are many children who have none." This year is no different; Devlin and his family will be anonymously matched with a family in need and will drop off their Christmas gift basket at a CCAS Branch Open House.

"The holidays can be difficult for these children and families", said Mary Bowyer, Executive Director of the Hope for Children Foundation. "We need more *Christmas angels* like young Devlin to help those in need during the holidays", said Ms. Bowyer, who was overwhelmed by the young boy's generosity.

Individuals are invited to drop-off a new, unwrapped toy, warm clothing, or gift certificates to a major grocery chain at a CCAS Branch Open House:

Branch	Open House Date
City of Toronto - East 2494 Danforth Avenue, Suite A, Toronto	Tuesday, December 6th 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
City of Toronto - West 900 Dufferin Street, Unit 219, Dufferin Mall, Toronto	Friday, December 9th 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Etobicoke/City of York 5230 Dundas Street West, Suite 1, Islington	Thursday, December 1st 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
North Branch & Child & Youth Services 30 Drewry Avenue, North York	Monday, November 28th 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Scarborough Branch & Foster Care Services 1880 Birchmount Road, Scarborough	Monday, December 5th 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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Established in 1986, HFC sponsors and supports essential preventative services to CCAS that are not funded by the government, including independent living programs for adolescents in the care of CCAS, post-secondary scholarships, emergency and enhancement grants, education planning and advocacy, and community support programs for families.

For more information, or to request an interview please contact:

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