



MEDIA RELEASE

CT Department of Labor *Communications Office*
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner

Connecticut Safety Society Sponsoring 25th Annual Stuffed Animal Toy Drive

WETHERSFIELD, November 20, 2015 – Looking to spread the joy of the season to Hartford-area youngsters who otherwise might miss out, members of the Connecticut Safety Society have launched their 2015 Stuffed Animal Toy Drive. All items collected will be donated to the sons and daughters of mothers who rely on the services of the Interval House.

A non-profit organization that helps victims end the violence in their lives through advocacy, support groups, shelter and other services, the Interval House has facilities in Hartford, Manchester and Simsbury.

The Connecticut Safety Society, comprised of employees from the Connecticut Department of Labor's Division of Safety and Health (CONN-OSHA), representatives from federal OSHA's offices in Hartford and Bridgeport, and safety and health professionals from private industry, will collect toys through December 16.

"The holidays are a challenging time financially for so many people living in the Hartford area," explains Aaron Thompson of CONN-OSHA, and a member of the Connecticut Safety Society's Board of Directors. "The Stuffed Animal Drive is our way of trying to make things a little happier and hopefully bring a smile to the faces of boys and girls that would likely go without those special 'extras' that make the holidays such a special time of year."

According to Thompson, individuals and community groups wishing to participate in the drive can drop off NEW stuffed animals between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at CONN-OSHA's Wethersfield office, located at 38 Wolcott Hill Road. Interval House staff will put the collected toys into gift baskets for distribution to the youngsters on Christmas morning, Thompson said.

"We look forward to our Stuffed Animal Toy Drive every year," he notes. "People are always great about opening their hearts and wallets and giving to make the holidays a little extra special."

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