



Connecticut Safety Society Sponsoring 24th Annual Holiday Stuffed Animal Drive

Public welcome to drop off toys at CONN-OSHA's Wethersfield office

WETHERSFIELD, November 19, 2014 – 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 2014 Stuffed Animal Toy Drive. All items collected during the 24th annual effort will be provided to 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, shelters and other services, the Interval House has facilities in Hartford, Manchester and Simsbury.

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, the Connecticut Safety Society will be collecting toys through December 11.

"This has been 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 the boys and girls from these families – many of whom, otherwise, would have to live 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, 38 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield. Hartford 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 Drive every year," he notes. "People are always great about opening their hearts and wallets and pitching in to make the holidays a little extra special."

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