



MEDIA RELEASE

CT Department of Labor *Communications Office*
Glenn Marshall, Commissioner

Labor Department's CONN-OSHA Employees Kick-Off Teddy Bear/Stuffed Animal Drive

Drop Off locations at CONN-OSHA and Labor Dept.'s Wethersfield Offices

WETHERSFIELD, Nov. 17, 2011 – When it comes to gifts, kids love to receive a new teddy bear or some other cuddly stuffed friend. To spread the warmth of the season to Hartford-area youngsters, members of CONN-OSHA's Safety Society, which include employees from state/federal OSHA programs and safety and health professionals from private industry, have begun their 21st annual Stuffed Animal Drive. Safety Society members will collect the stuffed toys until Dec. 7 for delivery to Hartford Interval House.

Donations from employees and the public will be accepted at two Wethersfield-based drop-off locations – the CONN-OSHA Office at 38 Wolcott Hill Road and the Labor Department's Central Office at 200 Folly Brook Blvd. – from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"This has been an especially difficult and financially trying year for so many people and we are hoping to make this year's drive extra special. Last year, we collected more than 100, and it's our wish to exceed that effort this time around," explains Aaron Thompson CONN-OSHA Occupational Safety Officer, a member of the Connecticut Safety Society's Board of Directors.

According to Thompson, Connecticut Safety Society members will transport the toys to the Hartford Interval House. The toys will be placed in gift baskets for distribution to the youngsters in time for their holiday party.

"We look forward to our Teddy Bear/Stuffed Animal Drive each year," he said. "People are always great about opening up their hearts and wallets and making this a time to remember for so many boys and girls who might otherwise miss out. It's always rewarding to know that your generosity has gone a long way to help so many youngsters have a happier holiday."

For directions to the CONN-OSHA and Central Office drop-off locations, visit the Labor Department's Website at www.ct.gov/dol - "Directions/Office Locations". For more information, contact Aaron Thompson at (860) 263-6927.

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Media Contact: Nancy Steffens, Communications Director

200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114
Phone: (860) 263-6535 – Fax: (860) 263-6536 – www.ct.gov/dol
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