

## 112 E. Northwest Highway Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056-3232



Brian Lambel Fire Chief

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Subject:** Mount Prospect Toys for Kids Program

Many Mount Prospect families can use a helping hand to provide their children a memorable holiday experience. By donating toys or gift cards to the Mount Prospect Toys for Kids program, you can do just that. The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Toys for Kids program offers residents and businesses an opportunity to make the holidays brighter for hundreds of local children. Last year alone, the program assisted over 300 children from over 100 families.

Mount Prospect Human Services Director Julie Kane discussed the vital need for such community programs that support families in need. "This event helps to relieve financial stress so that parents can enjoy the holidays with their children. For some children, this is one of the few gifts they receive to open on the holiday," said Kane.

Each year, the Human Services staff reviews the financial assessments that qualify the children and families to participate in the program. Families participating in this year's program will be invited to Fire Station 14 on Saturday, December 15 to pick up their toys and visit with Santa Claus. Mount Prospect firefighters and staff from the Village's Human Services Department will be serving cookies and hot chocolate.

Residents or businesses that would like to make a donation can drop off new, unwrapped toys to any of the Mount Prospect fire stations through Friday, December 7th. This year, we are specifically looking for donations for children ages 7-13. In addition to toys, the donation of gift cards to major department stores is encouraged for older children, as the program provides gifts for children up to age 17.

Mount Prospect Fire Chief Brian Lambel said, "This event is enjoyed by all involved – the children, parents, firefighters and Village staff. It is the collaborative efforts of the community, Human Services Department and the Fire Department that make this event a success each year."

Toy and Gift Card Donations can be dropped off at:

- Fire Station 12 1601 W. Golf Road
- Fire Station 13 112 E. Northwest Highway
- Fire Station 14 2000 E. Kensington Road

For more information, visit www.mountprospect.org or call 847/870-5660.

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