

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Project Santa Program Asks For Community Support**

**Macomb, Illinois, November 4, 2010** – “Every year the community comes forward to help the Project Santa Program provide a happy holiday for hundreds of children. In 2010, with economic pressures intensified, we are seeing more families in need of this gesture for holiday happiness than ever before,” says Western Illinois Regional Council Executive Director Suzan Nash. “We have organizations, churches, student groups, sororities, fraternities and individuals who sponsor families and children and make financial contributions every year, and every year we need to continue asking for their support.”

Many of the families in the program live below the poverty level, or have for the first time through loss of employment, find themselves struggling to provide the basic necessities for their families, much less provide a happy holiday for their children, and many families go without. As one mother said, “If it were not for Project Santa, my children would not be able to smile on Christmas morning.”

Last year, 196 families and 450 children were served by Project Santa, and this year may exceed those numbers. Over 2,000 gifts including toys, winter coats, mittens and hats, and food baskets were delivered. “We hope that we will have the same community participation in wrapping gifts. Without the community’s help, it is almost impossible to have the gifts ready to be delivered by Santa,” says Project Santa Coordinator Teresa Cadle.

Donations can be dropped off or sent to the Western Illinois Regional Council-Community Action Agency (WIRC-CAA) office at 223 South Randolph Street in Macomb, 61455, or visit the WIRC website at <http://www.wirpc.org/Newsroom/> to download a donation form. For more information or to volunteer to wrap packages, call, (309) 837-2997.