

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release October 19, 2009

EDITORS NOTE: GIFT COLLECTION RUNS

11/02/09 – 12/03/09



Contact: Lynne Menon, Director of Marketing & Communications
(203) 388-0124 or lmenon@stlukeslifeworks.org

TOYS NEEDED FOR 20th ANNUAL ST. LUKE'S LIFEWORKS HOLIDAY GIFT COLLECTION

Collection Runs November 2nd – December 3rd



Photo Caption: Moms and daughters from the National Charity League of Redding get into action at the 2008 St. Luke's LifeWorks Annual Gift Wrapping Party.

St. Luke's LifeWorks has begun collecting toys for the 20th Annual Holiday Gift Collection. **One of the largest toy collections in the region** will provide gifts to over 1,700 children affected by homelessness, poverty or HIV/AIDS, serving over 35 agencies across Fairfield County. "Every year we almost fall short of being able to provide gifts to each child we support;

and due to the current economic condition, **we anticipate the number of children requesting gifts to increase,**" said event manager Takeia McAlister. This year's top sponsors include Ed McGettigan, 96.7 The Coast Radio, UBS, Friends of Children, Inc., Two Men and a Truck, Stamford Special Services District, Purdue Pharma and TFI Envision, Inc.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to sponsor children or provide gifts through general toy drives. A list of appropriate gifts can be found on the website at www.learnaliving.org. Toy donations may be dropped off November 2nd through December 3rd at St. Luke's LifeWorks Center for Children and their Families at 141 Franklin Street in Stamford or at a number of locations in the area. Barnum Museum, Crazy Joe's Café and Two Boots in Bridgeport, Christine's Hair Studio and Clip & Show in Danbury, Barrett Bookstore, Darien Library, The Gardener's Center and Shaw's Market in Darien, Edward Jones, Greenwich Catholic School and Smart Kids' Toys in Greenwich, An Eye for Art, Citibank, and Edward Jones in Norwalk, Agabhum, Allied Training Professionals, Cerezo New Image Salon, Dr. Marc Kirshner, Hair is Beautiful, Jenna Marie's Deli, and Sundance Café in Stamford, Weston Library, Dunkin Donuts in Wilton, Mark Twain Library in West Redding, and Splash Car Wash in Darien, Norwalk, Stamford and Wilton. For a complete list of locations visit www.learnaliving.org.

There will be **two Giant Wrapping parties** held in our Toy Workshop this year. They are on **two Saturdays**, December 5th and 12th from 11a.m. – 1p.m. and 2p.m.-4p.m. both days. Space is limited. Wrappers and volunteers are urged to call our Gift Collection Hotline at **203-388-0103** to reserve a date and time slot for one of the parties. Donations of supplies such as wrapping paper, scissors and tape are welcome for use at the annual wrapping parties.

About St. Luke's LifeWorks:

St. Luke's LifeWorks is based in Stamford and has 10 locations in Fairfield County. Educational opportunities, coaching and mentoring, and transitional and supportive housing is provided to individuals and families facing homelessness, recovering from mental illness, or living with HIV/AIDS. St. Luke's LifeWorks focuses on providing permanent solutions that enable program participants to achieve greater self-sufficiency. Visit www.learnaliving.org.

###