



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **A CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR HOMELESS ORANGE COUNTY CHILDREN**

***Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> in Santa's Village at South Coast Plaza***

**Costa Mesa, Calif.** - 350 homeless children and motel kids will experience a little holiday cheer at "Gifts of Love," a Christmas party being organized just for them. The Festival of Children Foundation, The Happiness Project, YPO Southern California Chapter, and South Coast Plaza are all collaborating on the special night, to be held Friday, December 10, 2010 at 9:00 p.m. in Santa's Village at South Coast Plaza.

The children, ages 3-18, will be brought to the shopping center on buses from different locations throughout Orange County. As each child departs the bus they'll be matched with a volunteer who will spend the entire night with them, helping them navigate the various activities. The children will visit with Santa, ride the reindeer carousel, make arts and crafts, and enjoy food generously provided by Wahoo's Fish Taco and ZPizza. A teen lounge equipped with video games and music will be available for older kids. Every child in attendance will receive a special gift bag targeted for their age group and gender. Over 200 volunteers will be on hand to ensure that the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Gifts of Love" event is a success.

The Happiness Project, which assists underprivileged children with basic needs such as clothing and school supplies throughout the year, has been involved with the holiday party for three years now. "Gifts of Love is a holiday party for children in need in our community. For most children, if it weren't for this party, they would not have a Christmas celebration at all. Each child receives a bag filled with presents including toys, clothing, shoes, toiletries and school supplies. Many children wait to open their bag of presents on Christmas morning, so they have presents to open. These children are incredibly grateful for this experience and we are happy to give it to them," said Lindsay Dickhout, Executive Director of The Happiness Project.

**(more)**

## **Christmas Party for Homeless Children – 2 – 2 – 2**

YPO Southern California Chapter, a group of community leaders, joined the collaborative effort as part of its initiative to teach their children about giving back to the community. “The opportunity to host this event and visit the shelters and motels has opened our children’s eyes to the very real issue of homelessness here in Orange County. Hopefully this holiday experience of giving to others will motivate children and adults alike to continue to make a difference in our community throughout the year” said Brian Murphy, President of Athletes First.

“These children need and deserve to feel special,” said Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, Founder of Festival of Children Foundation. “At the end of the night our hope is that they also feel loved.”

### **About Festival of Children Foundation**

Festival of Children Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that serves to bring together and coordinate the efforts of charities, companies and individuals who actively work to improve the lives of children. Festival of Children Foundation gives a voice, guidance and support. 100% of the administrative costs are covered by designated funding, allowing donations to go further in direct support of programs and services that improve the lives of children. For more information, visit [www.FestivalofChildren.org](http://www.FestivalofChildren.org).

### **About YPO**

YPO (Young Presidents’ Organization) is a not-for-profit, global network of young chief executives connected around the shared mission of becoming Better Leaders Through Education and Idea Exchange™. Founded in 1950, YPO today provides 17,000 peers and their families in 100 countries with access to unique experiences, world-class resources, alliances with top learning institutions, and specialized Networks that help them enhance their business, community and personal leadership. For more information, visit [www.YPO.org](http://www.YPO.org).

### **About The Happiness Project**

The Happiness Project is a 501(c) (3) legal non-profit based in Orange County, California. Their mission is to help disadvantaged and homeless children in Orange County by providing them with basic essentials that will allow them to live a healthy life, be able to attend school, never go unfed, and to have a bright future with many opportunities. For more information, visit [www.HelpOCKids.org](http://www.HelpOCKids.org).

### **About South Coast Plaza**

South Coast Plaza is the crown jewel of shopping on the West Coast, and is recognized internationally for its unparalleled collection of over 250 boutiques, award-winning restaurants, spas and the adjacent world-renowned Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Its stellar cast of diverse retailers – from Oscar de la Renta, Balenciaga, Hermès and Harry Winston to Tory Burch, J. Crew H&M and more, makes it Southern California’s premiere shopping experience. South Coast Plaza is located in Orange County, California in the city of Costa Mesa. For more information, visit [www.SouthCoastPlaza.com](http://www.SouthCoastPlaza.com) or telephone (800) 782-8888.

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