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**For Immediate Release**

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**Lucas County Children Services Asks You To “Give the Best Gift Ever”**

***Annual Holiday Gift Drive Benefits Abused and Neglected Children***

(TOLEDO, OH – November 10, 2011) — Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan residents have the opportunity to “Give the Best Gift Ever” to children who are victims of abuse and neglect by supporting the annual Holiday Gift Drive sponsored by Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) and Friends of Lucas County Children Services (FLCCS). The goal is to “Give the Best Gift Ever” to as many as 2,000 abused and neglected children being served by LCCS. The campaign runs through December 15.

The drive provides gifts for children living with their families under LCCS supervision, or who are living with relatives in order to be safe. “In 2011, we’ve seen abuse and neglect cases continue in Lucas County,” explains Sherry Dunn, LCCS public information specialist and campaign coordinator. “Family stress is a big factor in child abuse and neglect, and the recent reports of increased poverty and economic hardship in Lucas County coincide with the steady number of reports of suspected child abuse. We want to make sure that kids who have been through these tough times have something to be happy about this holiday season,” she says.

The gift drive provides toys for children from birth to age 18. While we are seeking gifts for all age groups, the agency is in particular need of gifts for children of all ethnic groups who are newborn to 4 years old, and gift cards for teenagers.

Several generous community partners are again stepping up to support the gift drive: Banner Mattress & Furniture; Bennett Management Corp., a franchisee of BURGER KING Corporation®; *The Blade*; Buckeye CableSystem; radio station WRVF 101.5 The River, Allshred Services and Woodcraft. Local residents are encouraged to drop a new, unwrapped toy in the collection boxes located around the community:

- Allshred Services, 3940 Technology Drive in Maumee (which is offering up to five bags or boxes of shredding free when you donate a toy or gift card at its offices between November 28 and December 9).

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- Banner Mattress & Furniture locations at 5200 Monroe St., Sylvania; 6400 Hill Ave. and 2521 West Alexis Rd., Toledo; 3249 Navarre Ave., Oregon; 10005 Fremont Pike, Perrysburg; and 1135 South Main St., Bowling Green.
- *The Blade* office at 541 North Superior Street, Toledo.
- All Toledo-area BURGER KING® restaurants.
- Buckeye CableSystem bill payment centers located at 5566 Southwyck Boulevard and 2600 West Sylvania Avenue in Toledo, and at 3021 Navarre Avenue, Oregon, inside computerXTREME.
- Woodcraft, 5311 Airport Highway, Toledo.

Additionally, the Barnes & Noble Booksellers at 4940 Monroe Street in Toledo has designated the LCCS Holiday Gift Drive as the recipient of its 2011 holiday book donation campaign, which encourages customers to purchase books to be donated to the gift drive.

On Saturday, December 3, 101.5 The River morning show hosts Mary Beth Zolik and Rick Woodell will broadcast live from the BURGER KING® at 4870 Monroe Street (across from Westfield Shopping Center) from 1 to 3 p.m. The public is encouraged to stop by and support the gift drive during that time. "This should be one of the busiest shopping days of the season, and we're hoping that people will show they care about abused and neglected children. We invite them to visit BURGER KING® and at the same time, drop off a toy or gift card," says Beverly Benner, vice president, marketing and administration for Bennett Management Corp.

"We are hoping that with the awareness our partners will bring to this campaign, that Toledo-area residents will open their hearts and help us reach our goal of providing toys to all of the children in need," says Clare Armbruster, president of Friends of Lucas County Children Services.

### **About Lucas County Children Services**

The mission of Lucas County Children Services is to lead the community in the protection of children at risk of abuse and neglect. This is accomplished by working with families, service providers and community members to assess risk and coordinate community-based services resulting in safe, stable and permanent families for children.

### **About Friends of Lucas County Children Services**

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is the government agency that investigates allegations of child abuse and neglect and provides protective services when necessary. Friends of Lucas County Children Services is a 501(c) (3), private non-profit organization that supports LCCS through various charitable activities. The Holiday Gift Program is one of those activities.

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#### **About Allshred Services**

Allshred Services is a NAID Certified provider of confidential, secure document destruction services and has been in business for over 20 years. Allshred specializes in designing and implementing efficient, cost-effective data destruction programs. Allshred is the largest independent shredding company in the country. They have diverse destruction capabilities that include not only paper products, but also CD-Rom diskettes, computer reel tapes, counterfeit clothing, other counterfeit products, contraband, R&D designs, molds and any other material that could be used to cause potential harm to a company or an individual.

#### **About Banner Mattress & Furniture**

Banner Mattress and Furniture is a family owned, local, Toledo area business, serving the furniture and mattress needs of North-West Ohio and South-East Michigan since 1929.

#### **About Barnes & Noble, Inc.**

Barnes & Noble, Inc. (NYSE:BKS), the world's largest bookseller and a Fortune 500 company, operates 704 bookstores in 50 states. Barnes & Noble College Booksellers, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Barnes & Noble, also operates 635 college bookstores serving over 4.6 million students and faculty members at colleges and universities across the United States. Barnes & Noble conducts its online business through BN.com ([www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com)), one of the Web's largest e-commerce sites, which also features more than two million titles in its NOOK Bookstore™ ([www.bn.com/ebooks](http://www.bn.com/ebooks)). Through Barnes & Noble's NOOK™ eReading product offering, customers can buy and read digital books and content on the widest range of platforms, including NOOK devices, partner company products, and the most popular mobile and computing devices using free NOOK software. General information on Barnes & Noble, Inc. can be obtained via the Internet by visiting the company's corporate website: [www.barnesandnobleinc.com](http://www.barnesandnobleinc.com).

#### **About Bennett Management Corp.**

BENNETT MANAGEMENT CORP. is a family owned and operated BURGER KING® Restaurant Franchisee. Through various entities, it owns and operates 26 BURGER KINGs® in the States of Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. Bennett Management owns 21 in the greater Toledo area. They have been a part of the BURGER KING® family for over 40 years. Bennett Management Corp. and the Toledo-area BURGER KING® restaurants have received many awards for operations excellence and for contributions to the Brand, and the communities in which they operate their restaurants. They are the "HOME OF THE WHOPPER®!"

#### **About The Blade**

*The Blade* is the only comprehensive newspaper published daily in the Greater Toledo area. It debuted on December 19, 1835, making it the oldest continuing business in Toledo, Ohio - older than the city itself. Over the years, it has changed owners several times. The present owners, the Block family, bought the paper in 1926. Today, it covers 14 counties in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, and its web site, [toledoblade.com](http://toledoblade.com), launched in 1997, is the region's most viewed online media source for news. Together, the two entities reach over 83 percent of the market. *The Blade* has been honored with numerous awards for its investigative reporting and photojournalism, including a Pulitzer Prize for its investigative series, "Tiger Force," in 2004, and a Pulitzer Prize finalist designation for its coverage of the "Coingate" scandal in 2006.

#### **About Buckeye CableSystem**

Buckeye CableSystem, Inc., is the largest cable firm operating in the Toledo, OH, area, with about 130,000 customers in Toledo and 28 of its contiguous suburbs and adjacent townships and about 20,000 customers in a sister system in Sandusky, OH, and 10 of its contiguous suburbs and townships. Buckeye is a wholly owned subsidiary of Block Communications, Inc.

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#### **About WRVF 101.5 The River**

101.5 The River is one of Toledo's leading radio stations with nearly 100,000 unique listeners each week as rated by Arbitron radio ratings service. 101.5 The River is owned by Clear Channel and is considered Toledo's Family Friendly Radio Station. The River is also the place Toledoans turn for non-stop Christmas music during the holidays, making them an ideal partner in the LCCS toy drive.

#### **About Woodcraft**

Woodcraft is a niche national franchise retail store, locally owned and operated by John and Carroll Nystrom, drawing customers from NW Ohio, SE Michigan, and NE Indiana. The store is known for its staff of woodworking experts, woodworking tools and supplies, exotic woods, and classes for all levels of woodworking experiences.

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**ATTACHED:** Campaign Artwork