Annual Town of Palm Beach Unitd Way Toy Drive starting earlier to allow for possible toy shortages and supply chain issues

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PALM BEACH, FL – Palm Beach residents and workers will have extra time to purchase toys this year to donate to the annual Town of Palm Beach United Way Toy Drive. Due to reported toy shortages and supply chain issues, the 28th Annual Holiday Toy Drive will begin on Sunday, November 7 and run through Sunday, December 5.

The drive typically lasts two weeks, but leaders hope the four-week window will prompt donors to shop or order gifts early to avoid delays. Toys are donated to children who receive services from Town of Palm Beach United Way nonprofit partner agencies. This year gifts are benefiting clients at Catholic Charities, Clinics Can Help and Farmworker Coordinating Council.

“It is such a special moment every year when our agencies show up and we’re able to pack their cars full of toys,” said Board Chairman Mary Freitas. “We want to make sure we’re able to do the same this year, especially since so many families continue to struggle due to the impacts of job loss, inflation, and other pandemic-related issues. We’re grateful for the giving spirit of the Palm Beach community during the holidays and we thank residents in advance for their support.”

New, unwrapped toys can be delivered to any of the Palm Beach fire stations, the United Way office or Field of Greens locations in Palm Beach and Downtown West Palm Beach.

“We are so grateful for any amount of toys given to our organization,” said Denise Negron, Executive Director at Farmworker Coordinating Council.

Farmworker Coordinating Council provides case management, basic needs, financial assistance and other social services to farmworkers and their families.

“We have about 800 children we serve in Lake Worth and Belle Glade,” Negron said. “Being able to provide them all a toy this year would be so amazing. These are families that are truly struggling to get by each and every day, and a gift for the holidays would mean the world to both the children and the parents.”

Cash and check donations will also be accepted. Donors can contribute online at www.palmbeachunitedway.org/toy-drive or send a check. Checks should be payable to Town of Palm Beach United Way with “Toy Drive” in the memo and mailed to the United Way office at 44 Cooconut Row, Suite M201, Palm Beach, FL 33480.

Community partners for the drive include Field of Greens, Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach Daily News, and Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue.

Last year, the toy drive collected more than 1,500 toys and a record $33,555. All proceeds go directly to children in need in Palm Beach County.

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