

For Immediate Release



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Kids Wish Network Brings “Hope” to young patients at St. Luke’s Children’s Hospital

Boise, ID – Young patients will soon enjoy an unexpected treat during their hospital visits to St. Luke’s Children’s Hospital. Approximately \$150,000 retail value worth of toys have been donated to the hospital to be distributed to the youngsters courtesy of *Kids Wish Network*, a Holiday, Florida based national charity dedicated to infusing hope, creating happy memories, and improving the quality of life for children. Children admitted to the hospital for treatment will receive a brand new toy from the *Kids Wish Network’s* **Holiday of Hope Gift Bank**.

As just one of the programs that makes *Kids Wish Network* different from similar organizations, *Kids Wish Network’s* **Holiday of Hope Gift Bank** is an uplifting, gift-giving program that brings cheer to children admitted to the hospital for treatment. The **Gift Bank** provides emergency rooms, pediatric units, and other children’s care facilities nationwide with age appropriate toys, donated to *Kids Wish Network* by some of America’s top toy manufacturers. These special toys offer a welcome distraction to young patients from upsetting and often-traumatic medical experiences. A soft, plush toy can quickly dry the eyes of a child getting stitches, having a broken arm set, or enduring scary and many times uncomfortable medical procedures. Books, puzzles, and games provide an enjoyable diversion to long hospital stays.

Dr. Jerry Hirschfeld, administrator of St. Luke’s Children’s Hospital, echoes that sentiment, stating, “It is donations to our hospital like this that can improve a child’s stay and experience. The donations provide tools for our Child Life Specialists to aid children in anxiety-arousing situations. We are truly grateful for the Kids Wish Network donation.”

For more information on *Kids Wish Network’s* programs and upcoming events, please visit their website at www.kidswishnetwork.org. **If you know of a hospital that may benefit from its Holiday of Hope programs, please call (727) 937-3600 or toll free at (888) 918-9004.**

St. Luke’s Children’s Hospital cares for more than 50,000 children each year. As Idaho’s only Children’s Hospital, services include a 24-hour emergency department and operating rooms specifically designed and dedicated just for kids, intensive care units for critically ill newborns and children, and an outpatient specialty center to provide multidisciplinary services to children with special medical needs.

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