

Children's Hospital Foundation

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OKLAHOMA'S SICK CHILDREN RECEIVE EARLY CHRISTMAS *Mathis Brothers Furniture and KOCO TV-5 Host Successful Toy Drive*

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. (December 19, 2011) – The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center transformed into a toy land to bring early Christmas cheer to sick children. Due to another successful toy drive between Mathis Brothers Furniture and KOCO TV-5, baby dolls, stuffed animals and superheroes lined a whimsical Christmas tree in The Children's Atrium.

Until December 12, customers generously donated toys to Mathis Brothers Furniture to benefit Oklahoma's children. KOCO news anchors witnessed the children's bright eyes and big smiles as they distributed the toys themselves.

"It's nice to see them be able to be kids because so much of what they go through takes away from their innocence," said Kristie Day, mother of Miracle Child Lucy.

Whether children are discouraged that Santa won't find them during their stay in the hospital, or parents haven't had a moment to shop in the midst of the blood transfusions and doctor visits, the annual toy drive brings hope for everyone. The remainder of the toys will be given to children who will spend Christmas day in the hospital. Often enough, gifts provide the children with comfort and distraction, while making the hospital a less scary place.

Children's Hospital Foundation helps to fund pediatric research, education and clinical care, ultimately supporting The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center in serving every county in Oklahoma with more than 134,000 annual patient visits. All funds raised through Children's Hospital Foundation stay in Oklahoma so children will have access to exceptional pediatric specialists without having to leave the state. Despite dedicated and steady progress, it is still faced with obstacles in the quest to combat pediatric illness and disability.

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ABOUT US: Children's Hospital Foundation, proud affiliate of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, is a nonprofit 501c (3) organization in Oklahoma striving to improve the health of children. Since its inception in 1983, Children's Hospital Foundation, through its volunteer board and vast community support, has funded pediatric research and education programs including collaborative projects with the OU Department of Pediatrics, The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center, OU Children's Physicians and the University Hospitals Authority and Trust. For more information, contact Executive Director, Kathy McCracken at 405.650.1718 or visit our website: www.okchf.org.