



Community Action Program of Lancaster County

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Angel Tree Project Brings First Time Gift Requests

(Lancaster, PA) - Every year for the past 15 years, the Family Center of the Community Action Program (CAP) of Lancaster County has sought organizations to help fulfill Christmas wishes for both children and families through its Angel Tree Project. The project asks organizations such as churches, businesses and social groups to adopt the wish lists of children or entire families from a Christmas tree and donate the item(s) on the list to those they have adopted.

Rose DeJesus, office manager, has been involved with the Angel Tree Project for six years and she noticed a very big difference in what families placed on the wish lists in 2011. She said families typically ask for toys, books, or video games, but this year they asked for basic items. Families overwhelmingly asked for food and clothing. DeJesus believes the response shows how financially difficult it is for many families at this time.

The organizations responding to the Family Center's request for Angel Tree assistance are First United Methodist Church, Lancaster; St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, Lancaster; St. Mary's Catholic Church, Lancaster; Church of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ephrata; Lancaster Plumbing and Heating, Lancaster; Sheehan Chiropractic & Nutritional Wellness Center; and Bethesda Methodist Church, Holtwood. RBC Wealth Management, RBC Capital Markets and Haan Industries adopted families.

Patrice Dixon, the Family Center director, says the response from organizations was strong this year. Dixon said, "We are fortunate to live in such a caring community because the needs are so great due to the economy. Because of this response, approximately 180 children will have a gift to open and food to eat on Christmas Day."

The Family Center promotes positive child development through effective parenting, early intervention and outreach services. In addition, the program works to support and preserve the family unit as the foundation of

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success for children while assuring healthy development and access to health care services for children.

Community leaders formed CAP of Lancaster County in 1966 to assist low and moderate-income individuals with the resources, skills, and knowledge needed to become self-sufficient. CAP of Lancaster County offers 32 programs and employs 320 people who provide services to approximately 35,000 qualified individuals throughout Lancaster County.