

DELNOR HOSPITAL

NEWS RELEASE

Geneva

DELNOR'S GIVING TREE HELPS TO MAKE BIRTHDAYS BRIGHTER FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

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FOR IMMEDIATE

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Birthdays are a celebratory time in most children's lives. They often mean parties, presents, and fun. But for many children living in poverty, birthdays pass without any recognition. In fact, one in six children in the U.S. lives in poverty. When a family can't even afford food or shelter, they certainly can't afford birthday gifts. Delnor wants to help change that with this month's Giving Tree, and everyone in the community can help do their part as well. For the entire month of March, the Delnor Giving Tree is working with the Cheerful Givers organization to provide toy-filled birthday bags to food shelves and shelters.

In 2009, 37,531 less fortunate children were able to experience the joy of receiving a birthday gift from their parents because of Cheerful Givers. The organization believes that this simple gesture boosts self-esteem, enhances self-worth, and strengthens bonds in families. And since 1994, has donated over 300,000 birthday gift bags to children in need. "Cheerful Givers provides more than birthday bags, it celebrates those lives that matter. The birthday bags are a symbol of the unconditional love that we have for our anonymous neighbors in need and their children. They warm the heart of the volunteer who made it. And when this gift is met with a parent's tears of joy, we know that this one little birthday bag is going to warm the world in the hands of a child," states Robin Maynard Steele, founder of the Cheerful Givers organization.

Wrapping Up Smiles and Warm Wishes

"Cheerful Givers seemed to be a perfect fit with Delnor's mission to help the communities we serve," states Shari Motylinski, patient advocate at Delnor Hospital. "I read an article about the

organization a few years ago and how it touched so many lives; I really wanted to be a part of it. This is the second time Delnor has been involved with Cheerful Givers. It is very heartwarming when a child can unwrap a present for their birthday they would otherwise not have received, both for the parent and the child.”

Be a Part of the Giving

Delnor is asking for toy donations, including items like books, plush toys, balls, puzzles, stickers, crayons even cake mixes and balloons. For a complete list please go to delnor.com and look under the “What’s New” section for the Giving Tree.

At the end of the month Delnor will host a bag blitz and put the items into bags. They will then be distributed to St. Peter’s Food Pantry, St. Charles Salvation Army and Batavia Interfaith Pantry.

An actual ‘Giving Tree,’ located in the Delnor Hospital atrium, allows for employees to easily drop off their contribution. And for community members making a donation is simple, just pull in to the entrance of Delnor Hospital and the valet parking staff will take donated items and place them by the Delnor Giving Tree. Valet is available Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For More Information

If you have any questions about Delnor’s Giving Tree or the Cheerful Givers organization, please contact Lynne Casey, senior marketing specialist, at 630/208-4512.

Delnor Hospital, located at 300 Randall Road in Geneva, is part of Delnor Health System, which provides a broad range of health care and wellness services for the community. Delnor is a Magnet Nursing hospital and a Planetree designated hospital for patient-centered care. Delnor is a national leader in patient, physician and employee satisfaction, and is recognized as a top employer in the state of Illinois.