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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hope Center for Children Seeks Holiday Donations for Children and Families

Spartanburg, S.C., December 9, 2015 – Hope Center for Children is appealing to the public for donations to help children and families in crisis. “Children in foster care often do not associate the holidays with happiness because they are away from their families,” said Chamlee Loscuito, Chief Executive Officer for Hope Center for Children. For families struggling with poverty and meeting their children’s most basic needs, the holiday season is often stressful and heartbreaking.

Gift cards are a special need, according to Chamlee Loscuito, Chief Executive Officer for Hope Center for Children. “In years past, we have had children enter the emergency shelter the night before Christmas,” Loscuito said. “Having gift cards available on Christmas morning that staff can use to purchase gifts means these children won’t feel left out.” She added that the gift cards are helpful throughout the year, since many children enter the emergency shelter with only the clothing they are wearing.

The versatility of a gift card adds to its value. A gift card can be used to purchase anything from underwear to toys to food. For teens, a gift card represents the opportunity to express their individuality. It also offers them the gift of the experience of shopping. It provides them with privacy; teens who need undergarments would prefer to select their own, avoiding the embarrassment of strangers selecting for them.

For families in Hope Center for Children’s prevention programs, gift cards help purchase groceries that provide a family’s holiday dinner or purchase the only gifts children receive. “Since our caseworkers provide services in-home, we see the environment and the families’ needs first-hand—and we know these needs are genuine,” Loscuito said. “Often, the caseworker uses the gift card to make the purchase for the family because many families lack transportation.”

Great sources of gift cards are all-purpose retail stores such as Walmart or Target and grocery stores. “The public makes a huge difference in the lives of the children and families we serve,” Loscuito said. “Even gift cards for small amounts can go a long way in making an impact.”



About Hope Center for Children:

Hope Center for Children served 1,679 children and adults last year across five programs that offer a continuum of care for children and families. These programs include: an emergency shelter for abused or neglected children from birth to the age of 18; a residential program for teen girls in foster care; a residential program for youths aged 16 to 22 who are aging out of foster care or who have no safe place to live; and two community-based prevention programs for families with an increased risk of child abuse or neglect. Bilingual services and group education classes have been added to meet increased community needs. For more information on Hope Center for Children, visit www.hopecfc.org or call 864-583-7688.

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If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please call Lisa Hemond, Director of Development, at 864-583-7688 ext. 137 or email Lisa@Hopecfc.org.