



# MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES MAKES  
HAPPIER HOLIDAYS IN SOUTHEAST OHIO**

CALDWELL, Ohio – Outreach Ministries, a Lutheran Social Services program, will help children in Appalachian Ohio have a merrier Christmas when staff members and volunteers hand out presents to clients on December 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the distribution centers located at 810 Main St. in Caldwell and 31860 Claypool Hollow Road in McArthur.

This distribution day is part of an annual event, which runs from December 7 through 23, that distributes nearly 5,000 presents to children throughout the 24 southeastern Ohio counties that Outreach Ministries serves. Columbus and Cleveland-area Lutheran churches contributed the gifts, which include toys, clothing, school supplies, winter coats and accessories, blankets and dental hygiene kits.

“Every child should have a present to open at Christmas,” said Mary Woodward, director of Outreach Ministries. “To see the light in the child’s eyes when he or she receives that gift is amazing, and I am so thankful to everyone who donated gifts and made this event possible.”

Items are still being collected for the toy drive. Anyone looking to participate should deliver their donations to the Outreach Ministries distribution centers by December 18. For more information, please contact Mary Woodward at 740-732-6700 or mwoodward@lssco.org.

With its regional divisions of Lutheran Social Services of Southern Ohio and Lutheran Social Services of Northern Ohio, Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio serves thousands of people each day by focusing on the core societal issues of hunger, housing, healing and hope. LSS provides food pantries, homeless shelters, senior living, affordable housing communities and other programs and services that uplift families and strengthen communities. LSS is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, recognized by the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and a charter member of Lutheran Social Services in America.