



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Toy Drive is Mary's Center's Most Successful to Date**

**Washington, DC** – Despite the looming fiscal cliff and record number of charity drives this Holiday Season, Mary's Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center providing health care, family literacy, and social services to over 24,000 individuals in the Washington, DC area annually, held its most successful toy drive to date this December. The Center will distribute over one thousand toys during its annual Participant Holiday Party on Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup>.

At the Holiday Party, children will have their picture taken with Santa, enjoy a festive snack, make a craft, and receive an age-appropriate toy. "Our participants look forward to the Holiday Party every year, and I'm thankful we won't have to turn anyone away this year for lack of toys. The community really came around Mary's Center this year," said Rebecca Diamond, Mary's Center's Chief Development Officer.

In preparation for the party, Mary's Center's Adams Morgan site will be transformed into a winter wonderland under the direction of loyal volunteer Tony Tijerino, President/CEO of the Hispanic Heritage Foundation. "Tony's team makes the Holiday Party truly special. With their creativity and hard work, you feel like you're at the North Pole with Santa himself! Thanks to Tony and all of our friends and corporate partners, the miracle of Christmas will come true for our families" said Maria Gomez, President/CEO of Mary's Center. Over 30 volunteers will contribute their time to putting on the Holiday Party.

Mary's Center celebrates the following individuals and organizations for their generosity this year: the residents of 1010 Massachusetts Ave, Amy Dukavic at Washington Adventist Hospital, Beth Colleye, Boston Properties – DC and MD offices, Capital Hotels (St. Gregory Hotel), Capital One, Craig Rocklin, DC Chartered Health Plan, Inc., District of Columbia Fire and EMS Department, Dorothy Stein, Dr. Hill and the team at Accessible Medical Care, Dr. Samuel Lievano, Hispanic Bar Association DC, Inter-American Development Bank, Latin American Motorcycle Association, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships, NBC4 Washington, PALCO, RedEngine Digital, Rosie Rogers, Sidwell Friends School, SKD Knickerbocker, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Toys for Tots, University of Maryland Chapter of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. and Univision.

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**Mary's Center** is a Federally Qualified Health Center, founded in 1988, providing comprehensive and integrated services to more than 24,000 individuals whose needs too often go unmet by the public and private systems. The mission of Mary's Center is to build better futures through the delivery of health care, education and social services. Mary's Center saves lives and creates stronger communities, one family at a time. [www.maryscenter.org](http://www.maryscenter.org).