



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Lakeland Fire Department Kicks Off its Annual Holiday Toy Drive Today

Lakeland, FL - The Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) is excited to announce that the department's annual holiday toy drive kicks off today, November 30, 2015 and runs through Wednesday, December 16, 2015.

Community members are welcome to drop off a new, unwrapped toy at any of LFD's 7 fire stations. The toy drive will benefit the Children's Home Society of Greater Lakeland (<https://www.chsfl.org>) and the Dream Center of Lakeland (<http://dreamcenterlakeland.org>), who will distribute the collected gifts to Lakeland's children in need.

This is the third year in a row that the Lakeland Fire Department sponsors a toy drive and the event has been very successful in years past thanks to the donations of the community and firefighters that generously provide toys. In 2014, over \$8,000 in toys were donated to children in Lakeland!

"Out of the many events our department sponsors and participates, this is one we all look forward to every year" says Fire Chief Gary Ballard. "The holidays are a time to reflect on our blessings and to give back to those in need. This annual toy drive helps hundreds of children in Lakeland by allowing them to enjoy the holidays by knowing that they are cared for by their community."

Station locations where toys can be dropped can be found at <http://www.lakelandgov.net/lfd/about/station-locations>

- END -

Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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