



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Mark A. Hartwig**  
*Fire Chief*

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### **JOINING TOGETHER TO ADD JOY TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON** *19<sup>th</sup> Annual Spark of Love Toy Drive*

The San Bernardino County Fire Department is partnering with the Children's Fund this holiday season to provide gifts to at-risk children within San Bernardino County. As it has for the past 18 years, the San Bernardino County Fire Department is participating in the Spark of Love Toy Drive, in which fire departments throughout Southern California collect new unwrapped toys and sports equipment at all their stations. Last year, the effort provided gifts to almost 24,000 children throughout the County. This year, the Fire Department will give all donations and gifts to the Children's Fund which will be the main clearinghouse to distribute the donated toys to at-risk children via San Bernardino County schools and community-based organizations. Children's Fund is the non-profit member of the San Bernardino County Children's Network. Other San Bernardino County Fire Department activities – such as Toys for Tots in Victorville, Shop with a Firefighter in Yucca Valley, and Breakfast with Santa in Forest Falls – will continue.

Fire Chief Mark Hartwig is a strong supporter of the County's participation in this endeavor. "Spark of Love is a wonderful way to give back to the community and San Bernardino County Fire has been an active participant since the program started almost two decades ago," Chief Hartwig said. "This program and the participation of the community is the key to making a wish come true for children within our County."

For more information on the Spark of Love Toy Drive or the Celebration of Giving from Children's Fund, please visit their respective websites at: [abc7.com/sparkoflove](http://abc7.com/sparkoflove) and [www.childrensfundonline.org](http://www.childrensfundonline.org). If members of the public would like to request toys, they may contact the Children's Fund at 909-379-6040 or e-mail them at [celebrationofgiving@childrensfundonline.org](mailto:celebrationofgiving@childrensfundonline.org).

