



# For Immediate Release

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## *County Commissioners and Santa's Helpers from FedEx Kick-Off the 2015 Christmas Gift Project of Children & Youth Department*

(Monday, December 14, 2015, Beaver PA)

Today marked the official beginning of the 2015 Christmas Gift Project organized by staff of the County's Children & Youth Services department and supported by community volunteers and donors from the corporate, education, religious, legal and small business communities of Beaver County. Donations will be received at the CYS offices in Beaver Falls beginning this afternoon when Santa's Helpers will be dispatched from FedEx for a "Special Holiday Delivery" of gifts for 100 youth.

*"In spite of the pressures our staff and many of our service providers are feeling as the state budget impasse continues, I am proud to say that everyone has stepped-up and volunteered many, many hours to assure that the youth we serve will experience an enjoyable Christmas this year," stated Dayna Revay, Director of Beaver County's Children & Youth Services.*

Each donor to the project has agreed to "sponsor" between 10 and 150 youth. In order to maintain client confidentiality, participants are provided with age and gender information to assure that gifts are appropriate for each young recipient. After shopping and wrapping the gifts, CYS staff receive the donations and deliver them to the young people in question.

*“Every child, especially those who rely on Children and Youth Services, deserves a holiday season that will make them smile on Christmas morning. As a former teacher, I know how important it is for all our youth to feel included, appreciated and loved. The CYS Christmas project makes such feelings a reality for over 400 young people and I applaud their efforts”* commented Tony Amadio, Chairman of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners.

The 2015 participants for the Christmas Gift Project, together with the number of youth each has agreed to “sponsor” are listed below. New participants for 2015 are noted in **bold** print:

Service Link	150
<b>FedEx</b>	<b>100</b>
Penn State University-Beaver (Campus Alumni Association)	115
Beaver County Bar Association	70
St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church	50
<b>Beaver Area High School</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>St. Felix Catholic Church</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Title Source</b>	<b>30</b>
Oak Grove Church of Christ	50
First Presbyterian Church of Monaca	35
Eaton Corporation	30
Ambridge Area High School	25
Danzer Forestland	15
First Presbyterian Church of Beaver	10

*“Each year, the CYS Christmas Gift Project for Youth has proven that community generosity knows no bounds. We greatly appreciate those organizations that have renewed their annual support. Additionally, we welcome four new “sponsors” this year: FedEx, Beaver Area High School, St. Felix Catholic Church and Title Source. The 14 donors for 2015, spanning the corporate, educational, legal, faith-based and small business sectors of our economy, are a reflection of the true spirit of Beaver County”* offered County Commissioner Joe Spanik.

While most gift requirements are pre-arranged for participating groups as noted above, CYS staff will accept additional donations such as gift cards or new toys for children that CYS staff can distribute. Interested parties can make appropriate arrangements by contacting the CYS Christmas Project at 724-891-5800.

*“The Christmas season is a time to reflect our values as a community through giving to others. The annual CYS project, requiring countless volunteer hours and significant financial commitments from our donors, assures that hundreds of children and youth can experience the joy of Christmas this year. The real beauty of this program is that employers of all sizes, along with schools, churches and the Bar Association have made this project a success by embracing the true spirit of Christmas”* said County Commissioner Dennis Nichols.

The CYS Christmas Gift Project has been in operation for over 25 years and includes both renewing supporters and new community donors each holiday season.

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