



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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L&I Donates 900 Stuffed Toys to Pennsylvania Children

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) today donated 900 stuffed toys that passed safety inspections to the commonwealth's 30th annual Holiday Wish program gift drive.

Under state law, L&I's Bureau of Occupational and Industrial Safety must inspect all new stuffed toy samples for contents, choking hazards, and general safety. Toys that pass inspection get a registration number, which is on every stuffed toy sold in the state. Because of this process, the department accumulates hundreds of toy samples each year. In the past four years, L&I has donated nearly 2,500 toys to the Holiday Wish Program.

"With all the stuffed toys that come to our Harrisburg office for inspection, L&I staff consider ourselves to be part of Santa's workshop," said L&I Secretary Jerry Oleksiak. "The Holiday Wish program gives us a unique opportunity to provide children with the toys that pass inspection, giving the toys a good home and bringing joy to kids across Pennsylvania this holiday season."

The Holiday Wish program was started in 1989 by a small group of employees from DHS. Over the years, it has grown to include hundreds of employees in numerous departments.

The families and older adults sponsored for the event were identified through case workers at county assistance offices, a senior citizen complex serving older adults in need, and a community action agency. They list a few gifts they would like to receive, and state employees then choose to sponsor a family or individual. The program will reach more than 1,100 Pennsylvania children this holiday season.

BOIS administers and enforces safety standards related to a variety of products including, but not limited to: boilers, building construction (Uniform Construction Code), elevators, flammable and combustible liquids, and bedding and upholstery, in addition to stuffed toys.

MEDIA CONTACT: Lindsay Bracale or Penny Ickes, 717-787-7530 or dlipress@pa.gov

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