

EVENT PRESS RELEASE



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Children's Toy Fund

Ashley Natale

(330) 479-5393

ashley@childrenstoyfund.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILDREN'S TOY FUND'S THIRD ANNUAL BEAR DRIVE AT KEILLOR'S

CANAL FULTON, OH — Children's Toy Fund (CTF), a Canton, Ohio 501(c)3 is excited to partner with Kellior's A Teddy Bear Shoppe for the third year to bring furry friends to children facing illness, adversity and "yuck" this holiday season. The Bear Drive runs November 1 through December 11 and provides a unique opportunity for the local community to partner with CTF through the holiday season at both Akron Children's Hospital and Aultman Hospital Canton. *Anyone* can stop by Kellior's A Teddy Bear Shoppe in Canal Fulton, OH to hand-select and purchase stuffed animals for the donation box. CTF will match all purchases and donations up to \$5k to double the number of smiles across the area.

Stuffed animals provide much-needed comfort during times of distress. They remain one of the most requested items from local hospitals and foster care organizations, and CTF has donated well over 800 stuffed animals so far this year from their own purchases. The Bear Drive was born to create a hands-on opportunity for the community to join CTF in this mission of kindness and compassion.

During the first Bear Drive in 2020, hospital restrictions were tightened due to COVID-19. To ensure that hospitals received allergen/pathogen-free furry friends (no pet hair, smoke, etc.), CTF collaborated with Keillor's to provide brand-new stuffed animals. Although hospital restrictions have since been loosened, CTF has maintained its standard of providing new, allergen-free furry friends that can last a child's lifetime.

Team members within CTF have personally experienced severe allergies, asthma, etc., and understand the disappointment that goes with it. CTF's Executive Director and Office Coordinator were both told as children that they should have no stuffed animals in the bedroom. CTF maintains high standards to limit any allergen exposure for this reason. This is why all purchases made towards the Bear Drive Initiative at Keillor's are dropped in the donation box at the store to limit exposure until delivery.

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People on all ends of this Bear Drive Initiative are always excited to get involved to make a lasting impact. Cassie Freeman, the owner of Keillor's Teddy Bear Shoppe, mentioned that "the chance to be a part of something as wonderful as the Bear Drive truly makes the spirit of the season come alive. I love knowing that the donations we collect give local children a little extra love to get through the tough times!"

Anyone can participate in this initiative by shopping at Keillor's Teddy Bear Shoppe at 117 North Canal St Canal Fulton, OH 44614 during their store hours (Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 5-7pm, Fridays from 4-7pm, and Saturdays from 10-6pm).

Those who wish to donate towards this Bear Drive can do so (1) online through PayPal or Children's Toy Fund's Facebook page, (2) in person at Keillor's store or the Children's Toy Fund Bingo events held every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday starting at 4:30, or (3) mail to 2401 Swiss Ave SW Canton, OH 44706.

Additional Information

To keep up with their annual holiday donations, follow Children's Toy Fund on Facebook (@Children's Toy Fund), Instagram (@ctfinc), or their website (childrenstoyfund.org/holiday-giving).

Associated events taking place during this season include the 2023 Holiday Shopping Donation. More information can be found on the website or in the attached PDF "Children's Toy Fund Biggest Donation of the Year" Press Release.

About Children's Toy Fund

CTF is a 501(c)3 charity organization located in Canton, OH operating exclusively to bring toys, games, entertainment, and comfort to area children who need it most. The organization works as a resource for other nonprofits in the area to provide items outside of their budget.

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