



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

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# media release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Franklin County Children Services Holiday Wish and the Malaika Mentoring Program to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> year of Black Girl Magic Virtually**



**Columbus, Ohio-** Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm marks the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Black Girl Magic Toy drive. This year due to COVID-19, the event will be held virtually, and the community is urged to make a monetary donation or donate Amazon and Target gift cards that will use to purchase culturally specific gifts; ethnic dolls, inspirational poetry, STEM items, books featuring African-Americans or multi-cultural characters, ethnic hair and skin care products. Join Holiday Wish and the Malaika (Meh-LIKE-a) Mentoring program as they celebrate self-love and acceptance for girls of color under the care of Franklin County Children Services.

**Interviews can be scheduled via Zoom by contacting Franklin County Children Services at 614 357-8569.**

Black Girl Magic was created as a culturally specific gift program under Holiday Wish to assist in receiving gifts for our children of color specifically girls between the ages of 8 and 11 that reflect their diversity and celebrate their uniqueness. Children Services believes that ALL our children should receive gifts that celebrate their culture. The event will focus on the disparities that our young girls of color face and opportunities for the community to get involved. Come out and help us celebrate Black Girl Magic! Community can RSVP at [FCCSVolunteers@fccs.us](mailto:FCCSVolunteers@fccs.us)

### ***About Holiday Wish and Franklin County Children Services***

Franklin County Children Services is a public agency mandated by law to protect and care for the county's abused, neglected and dependent children. For more than 50 years, the Holiday Wish program has been granting the wishes of children under the care of children services. FCCS believes that all children should receive gifts for the holiday that reflect and celebrate their culture. For more information on Holiday Wish/Black Girl Magic visit <http://childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov/how-to-help/black-girl-magic.cfm>

**Call Holiday Wish at (614) 275-2525 or send an email to [holidaywish@fccs.us](mailto:holidaywish@fccs.us).**

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