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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Operation Good Cheer delivers holiday cheer...**

For 6,320 foster children in Michigan, the holiday season just got a little brighter. On December 5, volunteers from Operation Good Cheer loaded up semi-trucks and delivered Christmas gifts to 73 foster care agencies across the state of Michigan. The program is made possible by hundreds of generous donor groups and individuals who purchase and wrap gifts to ensure foster kids wake up on Christmas morning with smiles on their faces.

Operation Good Cheer, which celebrated 50 years this year, looked a little different due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year. Typically, the presents are picked up, loaded, and transported to the Oakland County Airport where they are then flown by volunteer pilots to local airports for pickup by agency volunteers. This year to avoid a large gathering, all presents were delivered by truck to their respective agencies.

Sixteen kids from Livingston County Catholic Charities' foster care program received gifts this year and will have their Christmas wishes granted. **However, one mother is getting perhaps the best Christmas gift of all—reunification with her children.**

KC had her two children placed in foster care over a year ago. Throughout the last year, she has worked hard to improve her living situation as well as her mental and physical well-being. In November, her children could return home to her, just in time for the holidays.

*“It was such perfect timing, and we all felt so happy and so blessed to be together for Thanksgiving and Christmas,” she said.*

However, finances are still a struggle at times, and she worried about not being able to afford gifts and provide her children with the joy, cheer and magic they deserve to feel on their first Christmas back together. Operation Good Cheer came to her rescue, she said.

“I can’t even explain what a big help this was in relieving the guilt I felt for not being able to provide much of a Christmas for my children this year,” she said. “Nor can I put into words how incredibly thankful and grateful I am to see my daughters faces light up on Christmas morning when they find these gifts waiting for them under the tree.”

KC said she is humbled to know there are so many people who put the time and effort into making sure every kid gets to experience a magical Christmas.

“While just being together and having my girls back with me was enough of a gift for me, seeing their surprised faces and excitement upon discovering a pile of beautifully wrapped gifts for them, that they knew their momma couldn’t afford, made my heart smile and made everything right in the world,” she said. “Operation Good Cheer truly put the magic into Christmas for my family this year.”