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FOSTER CHILDREN WISH UPON A STAR... FACC CALLS ON COMMUNITY TO GRANT

Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition kick-off Little Wishes, a program to help foster children have a childhood.

(Metro St. Louis) Over 11,000 Missouri children remain in foster care wishing for that *big wish*... a forever family. Area residents may not have room in their home, but the **Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition (FACC)** announces that they can still help a child in foster care by granting their wish of a first baseball glove, art lessons or even a room make-over. There are over 5,000 wishes to be granted!

"When wishes are granted, kids begin to realize what it is really like to be a kid," states Melanie Scheetz, Executive Director of FACC. *"They enjoy experiences that add magic to their lives, like being given their first bike, or receiving their very own doll to love."*

Little Wishes, a partnership among **FACC, KSDK NewsChannel 5, Chesterfield Mall,** and the **Junior League of St. Louis,** is a program that raises donations from the public to grant the wishes of Metro St. Louis children in foster care. This year there are three simple ways to help grant wishes:

1. Granting Wishes just became easier! The public can now go to KSDK NewsChannel 5 website (www.ksdk.com) and choose from thousands of wishes ranging from \$20 - \$200. Just Click to Give!
2. For true shop-a-holics, attend the **Chesterfield Westfield Shopping Center's Shopping Extravaganza Day** on **Saturday, December 8th** from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
3. If shoppers would like to assist in granting that Big Wish... they can purchase, at any of the Westfield Shopping Centers or at www.littlewishes.net, a **Wish Upon a Star ornament** for only \$12/free shipping and handling. Contributions will help Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition cover the costs of finding forever families for foster children.

In Metropolitan St. Louis, there are over 5,000 children in the foster care system; with almost 500 available for adoption and waiting for an adoptive family. This year alone, about 230 teens will "age out" of the foster care system without a "forever family." One foster child wrote to a Little Wishes donor: *"Thank you so much for caring for me. I love the gift and the kindness. One day I want to grow up and be as kind as you. I hope other people are kind to you as you are. I can't stop thanking you. God Bless You! Thanks again, Myria."*

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Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition (FACC) is a non-profit agency that strives to create permanency in every foster child's life by recruiting and supporting foster/adoptive homes in the St. Louis metropolitan community. Founded in 1985, FACC is the area's largest recruiter. For more information about FACC, visit www.foster-adopt.org. For a more detailed holiday schedule, photos, or to schedule an interview with Melanie Scheetz or an adoptive family, please contact Heather Henke at heatherhenke@foster-adopt.org or 314.799.9292.