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**PUTNAM FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES PARTNERS
WITH 4-H TO BRING HOLIDAY JOY TO THOSE IN NEED**

PFCS, 4-H and Toys for Tots help to fulfill holiday wishes for the children of PFCS clients

Putnam County, NY – This year children of Putnam Family & Community Services (PFCS) clients will find special gifts under their trees thanks to a partnership between PFCS, Toys for Tots, and Cornell Cooperative Extension’s 4-H Youth Development Program. Social workers and community based service providers worked with families being served by PFCS programs to complete holiday wish lists for their children. The items requested were listed on cards that were then distributed by 4-H Teen Action Group members to holiday trees located in various places in the area including George’s Place, the Mahopac Library and others. Local supporters chose gifts to give to the children in need, making holiday dreams come true.

In addition, Toys for Tots, a program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, donated over 20 bags of toys to PFCS for distribution to the families who are seeking to make the holidays a joyful and exciting celebration for their children. PFCS families in need were invited to come to the ‘gift pod’ located at 1816 Route 6, Carmel, and choose gifts to help make a brighter celebration for their children. “I would just like to thank all of the PFCS staff!! I am a single mother of 2 girls, and I have been coming to PFCS for 3 years. The staff here has helped to save my life. This year...once again, thank you for the gifts my children will love,” said Patricia Tompkins. PFCS Counselors also delivered gifts to those families who were unable to travel to the site.

Other organizations, including the Carmel Nursery School and Meridian Benefit Consulting, also supported fulfilling wish list requests for holiday gifts.

“We worked very closely with Dena Altivilla, 4H Youth & Family Development Program Director, and her great team of youth volunteers to bring joy and goodwill to many families this year,” said Christina McGuigan, PFCS organizer. “A lot of work goes into this effort every year, but the partnership with 4-H and Toys for Tots makes it all happen...and the smiles from both parents and children make it all worthwhile.”

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About Putnam Family and Community Services, Inc.

Putnam Family and Community Services, Inc. (PFCS) is the only private non-profit agency providing recovery-based mental health, substance use disorder treatment and prevention services in Putnam County, NY. PFCS offers hope and healing to people of all ages through a comprehensive range of services including individual and group counseling, care management, family advocacy, parenting education, community outreach, psychiatric rehabilitation, and medication management. For more information, visit www.PFCSinc.org or www.Facebook.com/PFCSinc.



Virginia Shepard and Patricia Tompkins selected special gifts donated by Toy for Tots at the PFCS 'gift pod' to help make the holidays bright for their children.



Christina McGuigan, PFCS Holiday Wish List organizer, getting ready to distribute gifts donated by local residents who chose wish tags from 4-H trees.