



*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 25, 2003*

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Parental Stress Center
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PRESENTS, VOLUNTEERS, & DONATIONS “FLOOD” THE PARENTAL STRESS CENTER

“Miracle on 34th Street” might be “just a movie,” but it’s true spirit of holiday giving is alive and well in the hearts of the Pittsburgh families, churches, civic organizations, schools and corporations in the local community; hundreds of at-risk children and families served at the Parental Stress Center can attest to this.

Early on the morning of December 19th, 2003, PSC staff went into emergency response mode, to rescue the holiday gifts that they found floating in a rapidly rising pool of water on the ground floor of the center. It was later discovered that the water was seeping in as result of an over-night 12 inch water main break on Baum Boulevard in East Liberty.

What might have been a bleak holiday for the children this year became one of the brightest that they had ever experienced. Hundreds of donated presents, dozens of volunteers and financial contributions streamed into the PSC Family Center, all for the benefit of the children and their families.

“We all know how giving Pittsburgher’s are; they responded immediately after local media broadcasted our situation.” Timothy P. Snyder, Executive Director of the Parental Stress Center explains, “We have had more than 300 calls of support over the past three days. Volunteers have walked in off the street to wrap or donate presents for the children. One volunteer, a former client, heard the call and came in to volunteer with her two children that PSC had assisted, so that they could be returned to her care two years ago.”

Another donor from Homestead, who identified himself as Santa Claus, brought in 200 presents this past Saturday. Whole Foods, Home Depot, Walmart, local schools, churches and individual donors have stepped up to the plate to help the children and families that we serve. You can’t imagine how thankful we are to see so many people in the community coming in to help!”

Snyder continues, "We hope local individuals, companies, and other organizations will help us deal with the ongoing effects of the crisis. At a time when funding resources are exceedingly more difficult to locate, for families who are struggling to overcome the debilitating effects of poverty, we will especially need private support!"

Separate from the Christmas presents, PSC Family Center is sustained approximately \$15,000 in structural damage. PSC is accepting donations to make repairs to the PSC Family Center. Please send your contribution to the following address:

Attn: Holiday Flood Relief
5877 Commerce Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Phone: (412) 361-4800
Email: pscinfo@pscfamily.net
www.pscfamily.net

Parental Stress Center, founded 28 years ago, exists to prevent child abuse and neglect, providing solution-focused education, strength-based counseling, and family-centered supportive services to children, families, caregivers, and agencies in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Headquartered at 5877 Commerce Street in East Liberty, the Parental Stress Center is an accessible family center that is open seven days per week; thirteen hours per day. It is open to all parents and children looking for assistance in stressful times.

Last year, the Parental Stress Center served 2,136 families providing 82,531 hours of service to parents, caregivers, and children as they worked to overcome difficult life challenges. For more information call 412-361-4800 or visit www.pscfamily.net.

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