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NEWS

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Adopt-an-Angel this holiday season

Annual gift-giving program begins at Crittenton Children's Center

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Crittenton Children's Center's annual Adopt-an-Angel program began earlier this month, aiming to give a happy holiday to its more than 200 youths currently receiving treatment. Crittenton's "angels," at-risk youths ages 13-21, filled out wish lists asking for items such as clothes, music, games, and jewelry, which community members can fulfill by "adopting" a Crittenton youth.

"This is the only Christmas many of these children will get," said Conni Leeds, patient advocate and manager of volunteers at Crittenton. "Even though they're here, they still have the same hopes and dreams as other children."

With the help of the community, each child's wishes can be granted on Christmas morning, when the youth's packages are set outside their doors.

"Our Adopt-an-Angel program allows community members to really make a difference in a child's life," Leeds said. "It lets them know that they made a child smile – after all, who doesn't want a visit from Santa Claus?"

To adopt a Crittenton angel for the holidays or to make a monetary donation, call Conni Leeds at (816) 767-4124 or send an email to adoptanangel@saint-lukes.org by Dec. 8. Gifts may be dropped off or mailed to Crittenton Children's Center, ATTN: Conni Leeds, 10918 Elm Ave., Kansas City, Mo., 64134, no later than Dec. 11.

For more than 100 years, Crittenton has been caring for the emotional health of children and families in the Kansas City area. It has evolved into a comprehensive system of care that includes acute inpatient hospitalization, residential treatment, outpatient treatment,

and prevention services. Crittenton Children's Center is part of Saint Luke's Health System.

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