



SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Public Information Office

12-15-2017

Joint Media Event

San Francisco Fire Department, San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program, and Family House hosting a night of fun for children with cancer and life-threatening illnesses

The San Francisco Fire Department is happy to be participating with the San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program in spreading holiday cheer and giving toys to children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. The Department will be sending the Crews from Fire Station 4, Mission Bay, and Joining members of the Toy Program to bring some holiday cheer and fun to the children and their families at Family House.

Since 1981, Family House has served as a home away from home and a pediatric guesthouse for families of children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses by providing physical comfort and emotional support, free from financial concerns. The Nancy and Stephen Grand Family House is located a few blocks away from the new UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Mission Bay. With cancer treatment taking weeks or even months, Family House is an oasis and a compassionate space for children and families going through the hardest times in their lives. Family House runs at full occupancy housing over 250 people or 80 families per night.

The San Francisco Firefighter's Toy Program is the city's largest and the nation's oldest program of its kind. Since 1949, it has evolved from a few firefighters repairing broken toys and bikes for 15 families to, in 2016, 300 firefighters and friends volunteering their time to distribute over 200,000 toys to more than 40,000 disadvantaged children. Besides helping individual families in need, the Toy Program serves many community organizations, including shelters for abused women and children, inner-city schools, children's cancer wards, and pediatric AIDS units. We also respond on a year-round basis to displaced children who become victims of fires, floods and other such disasters.

"There is nothing more gratifying than seeing the smiling face of a child who is battling a life-threatening illness," said Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White. "At the Children's House, smiling faces are everywhere. The services that the Children's House provides are priceless for the families staying there. The San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program and the Fire Department joyfully support the Children's House in any way we can."

WHEN: Monday, December 18, Starting at 5:00pm

WHERE: Nancy and Stephen Grand Family House, 540 Mission Bay Blvd. North at 3rd Street, San Francisco's Mission Bay

WHO:

- Marshall Lamm, Family House Media Representative
- San Francisco Firefighters
- Family House CEO Alexandra Morgan
- Interviews will be available with families

CONTACTS:

- Family House media contact: Marshall Lamm, 510-928-1410, marshallamm@earthlink.net
- San Francisco Fire Department media contact: 415-660-0545, Lt. Baxter, firepio@sfgov.org
- San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program, 415-777-0440, sffdtoyprogram@aol.com
