



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Manitoba Paramedics Care For Needy Children World-Wide

2005/11/09 – Paramedics across Manitoba have volunteered to embark on a unique and compassionate mission that will touch the lives of millions of underprivileged children around the world.

On Wednesday, November 9th, paramedics in communities throughout the province will partner with Operation Christmas Child to collect gift-filled shoe boxes for distribution to children living in countries ravaged by war, poverty, disease and natural disaster. These shoe boxes are filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, small gifts and oftentimes personal notes from children in local participating schools who pack them. Paramedics will use off-duty ambulances to collect the boxes from these schools and deliver them to an Operation Christmas Child collection centre for distribution to countries world-wide.

“Manitoba paramedics became involved with Operation Christmas Child four years ago with one ambulance and one school”, says paramedic Meaghan Webb, Project Coordinator. “This year we have 14 ambulances picking up from approximately 30 schools across the province, and we hope to collect over 3000 shoe boxes. For many kids living in desperate conditions around the world, this will be the only Christmas present they have ever received”, adds Webb.

Manitoba paramedics from Assiniboine, South Eastman, North Eastman, Central, Interlake and Winnipeg Regional Health Authorities will join emergency services personnel in cities across Canada to collect shoe boxes from local schools to mark the 13th season of Operation Christmas Child. Supported by relief agency Samaritan’s Purse, Operation Christmas Child is the world’s largest Christmas project. This year shoe gift boxes from Canada will be distributed to underprivileged children living in 18 countries.

In Winnipeg, media are invited to join paramedics as they collect shoe boxes at Linden Christian School, 877 Wilkes Avenue, at 9:00 a.m. November 9th. Following the collection, ambulances from all participating services will gather in Winnipeg at the intersection of Portage and Moray at 1:00 p.m. and from there parade to the drop-off location at Eastview Community Church (3500 DeVries Avenue).

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Regional Contacts

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South Eastman RHA:	Scott Noble- 422-7072
North Eastman RHA:	Julie Vielleux- 345-2462
Central RHA:	Julie Rempel- 324-6434
Interlake RHA:	Diane Findlay- 485-1603
Winnipeg RHA:	Meaghan Webb- 223-2134

The Paramedic Association of Manitoba represents the professional interests of Emergency Medical Services practitioners to ensure the well-being and appropriate medical treatment of patients.

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