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**CT FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSN. COLLECTING GIFT CARDS & TOYS
FOR OPERATION E.L.F. & CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER**
Over 40 Funeral Homes Welcome Holiday Donations through December 5th

WETHERSFIELD, CONN., November 13, 2018 – For more than a decade, the funeral directors and suppliers of the **Connecticut Funeral Directors Association (CFDA)** have collected toys and funds and made personal contributions for the **Connecticut National Guard's Operation ELF's (Embracing Lonely Families)** holiday drive. **This year, CFDA will expand its holiday effort to also collect toys for Connecticut Children's Medical Center.**

Starting today through Wednesday, December 5th, 42 funeral homes across Connecticut will welcome donations of unwrapped toys and gift cards from the public. **In addition, on Thursday, December 6th** from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., people can drop off these items to CFDA's 130th Annual Convention at the Red Lion Hotel (formally the Radisson Cromwell Hotel) at 100 Berlin Rd. (Rt. 372) in Cromwell.

"This is the third year that Connecticut funeral homes have invited the public to bring in donations of gift cards and toys," explains Edward J. Sheehy Jr., President of the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association. "By doing so, we are adding more than 40 convenient community sites to supplement Operation ELF's and Connecticut Children's Medical Center's own collection efforts. We encourage state residents to take a few minutes of their time and come donate an item that will mean so much to another Connecticut family."

All gift cards, toys and funds collected by the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association will be delivered directly to Operation ELF and Connecticut Children's Medical Center before the holidays. Operation ELF welcomes gift cards of any dollar value to grocery, department stores, home supply stores, gas stations, and pharmacies, **as well as unwrapped toys** for young people of any age. These items will be given to families of Connecticut National Guard soldiers and airmen who are deployed during the holidays and throughout the year.

Connecticut Children's Medical Center welcomes new and unwrapped toys that are appropriate for hospitalized infants, children, adolescents or teenagers and do not pose a safety hazard, such as those with sharp edges or small, removable or easily breakable parts. These toys will be distributed to patients around the holidays and at different times of the year.

Donations of gift cards and toys may be dropped off during regular business hours at any of the following **42 funeral homes now through December 5th** (*listed in alphabetical order of town/city*):

Avon: Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center at 301 Country Club Rd., 860-673-8610;

Bloomfield: Henry L. Fuqua Funeral Service at 94 Granby St., 860-769-6841;

Bristol: Funk Funeral Home at 35 Bellevue Ave., 860-583-4107;

Cheshire: Alderson-Ford Funeral Home of Cheshire at 615 S. Main St., 203-272-7209;

Danbury: Cornell Memorial Home at 247 White St., 203-748-4833;

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Derby: Edward F. Adzima Funeral Home at 253 Elizabeth St., 203-735-0111;

East Hartford: D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel at 30 Carter Street, 860-568-9420;

Enfield: Leete-Stevens Family Funeral Homes & Crematory at 61 South Rd., 860-749-2244;

Fairfield: Shaughnessey-Banks Funeral Home at 50 Reef Rd., 203-255-1031;

Greenwich: Castiglione Funeral Home at 544 Old Post Rd. #3, 203-869-0894;

Manchester: Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home at 400 Main St., 860-643-2441;

Manchester: John F. Tierney Funeral Home at 219 West Center St., 860-643-1222;

Manchester: Manchester Funeral Home at 142 E. Center St., 860-643-6226;

Meriden: John J. Ferry & Sons Funeral Home at 88 East Main St., 203-235-3338;

Middletown: Doolittle Funeral Home at 14 Old Church St., 860-346-6464;

Mystic: Mystic Funeral Home at 51 Williams Ave. (Rt. 1), 860-536-2888;

Naugatuck: Alderson-Ford Funeral Home of Naugatuck at 201 Meadow St., 203-729-2253;

New Britain: Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Burritt Hill at 332 Burritt St., 860-229-9021;

New Britain: Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home at 411 South Main St., 860 229-5676;

New Haven: Howard K. Hill Funeral Service at 1287 Chapel St., 203-624-4477;

New London: Thomas L. Neilan & Sons Funeral Home at 12 Ocean Ave., 860-443-1871;

Newington: Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial at 20 Bonair Ave., 860-666-0600;

Newtown: Honan Funeral Home at 58 Main St., 203-426-2751;

Norwalk: Hoyt-Cognetta/Lesko Funeral Home at 5 East Wall St., 203-847-7291;

Plainville: Bailey Funeral Home at 48 Broad St., 860-747-2295;

Rockville: Burke-Fortin Funeral Home at 76 Prospect St., 860-875-5490;

Rocky Hill: Rose Hill Funeral Home at 580 Elm St., 860-529-3381;

Seymour: Ralph E. Hull Funeral Home at 161 West Church St., 203-888-2538;

Shelton: Riverview Funeral Home, Inc. at 390 River Rd., 203-924-6800;

Southbury: Carpino Funeral Home at 750 Main St. South, 203-264-1991;

South Windsor: Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home at 419 Buckland Rd., 860-644-2940;

Stafford Springs: Introvigne Funeral Home at 51 East Main St., 860-684-2538;

Stratford: Adzima Funeral Home at 50 Paradise Green Place, 203-375-2200;

Torrington: Cook Funeral Home at 82 Litchfield St., 860-482-4456;

Torrington: Gleeson-Ryan Funeral Home at 258 Prospect St., 860-489-4104;

Vernon: Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home at 551 Talcottville Rd., 860-875-3536;

Wallingford: B. C. Bailey Funeral Home at 273 South Elm St., 203-265-1111;

Wallingford: Wallingford Funeral Home at 809 North Main Street Ext., 203-269-7777;

West Hartford: Sheehan-Hilborn-Breen Funeral Home, 1084 New Britain Ave., 860-561-3800;

Wethersfield: D'Esopo Funeral Chapel at 277 Folly Brook Blvd., 860-563-6117;

Willimantic: Potter Funeral Home at 456 Jackson St., 860-423-2211; and

Windsor: Carmon Community Funeral Home at 807 Bloomfield Ave., 860-688-2200.

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The 130-year-old [Connecticut Funeral Directors Association](#) is comprised of funeral directors at more than 220 funeral homes. Based in Wethersfield, Conn., the professional organization is committed to the promotion and advocacy of high ethical standards in funeral service. This includes the development and presentation of ongoing professional training opportunities for practitioners and educational programs for association members and the public. For more information about the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association or its holiday collection drive, call 860-721-0234 or 800-919-2332, or visit www.ctfda.org

The [Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc.](#) is a non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization that provides emergency financial assistance for Connecticut National Guard members and their families. Operation ELF assists the families of Connecticut National Guard soldiers and airmen who are deployed during the holidays and provides a wide range of support to military families throughout the year. For more information about Operation ELF, call 800-858-2677, or visit the Connecticut National Guard [Facebook](#) page.

[Connecticut Children's Medical Center](#) is the only hospital in Connecticut dedicated exclusively to the care of children and is ranked by U.S. News & World Report and Women's Choice as one of the best children's hospitals in the nation. With a medical staff of more than 1,000, Connecticut Children's provides comprehensive, compassionate health care in more than 30 pediatric specialties and subspecialties. Connecticut Children's Medical Center is a not-for-profit organization, which serves as the primary pediatric teaching hospital for the UConn School of Medicine, has a teaching partnership with the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University and is a research partner of The Jackson Laboratory. Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health is a national leader in community-based prevention and wellness programs. For more information, visit www.connecticutchildrens.org

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