



For Immediate Release

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DECEMBER 16: AMIKIDS CROSSROADS THIRD FRIDAY DRIVE-IN MOVIE "ELF" DESIGNATED AS TOY DRIVE FOR KIDS IN CARE AT CHARLOTTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. (November 22, 2016) – On Friday, December 16th, AMIKids Crossroads will hold its monthly Third Friday Drive-In in the vacant lot in downtown Punta Gorda, located between W. Marion Avenue and W. Retta Esplanade and US41 North and Taylor Street. Movie-goers are encouraged to bring toys for kids aged infant to 18 years, which will be donated to kids in care at Charlotte Behavioral Health Care (CBHC).

December's movie is the popular holiday family movie hit "Elf" starring Will Ferrell. Ferrell stars as Buddy, a normal-sized man raised as an elf at the North Pole. After wreaking havoc in the elf community and realizing that he's not a real Elf, Buddy travels to New York City, in full elf attire, to find his biological family. Buddy's adventures will bring laughter to the entire family.

"In the spirit of the holiday season, we decided to hold a toy drive at our December Drive-In," said John Davidson, Executive Director at AMIKids Crossroads. "The kids in care at CBHC are not only struggling with mental health disorders, but a lot of their families are also struggling financially – it's a dual disadvantage. We are thrilled to partner with them to shine some holiday spirit in to these kids' lives."

Operating for 47 years, Charlotte Behavioral Health Care is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that seeks to optimize health, improve quality of life and build an overall feeling of wellness for all children, adolescents, adults and families in Charlotte County. Children and adolescents face profound developmental, social, behavioral and emotional challenges. CBHC helps families address these challenges by providing support and services for over 2,000 children each year using evidence-based treatment and intervention methods.

"We are so grateful to AMIKids Crossroads for holding this toy drive as part of their Third Friday Drive-In," said Kelly Pomerville, CBHC Marketing & PR Manager. "Together, we stand united to restore hope and change lives within our community. Through the toy drive, movie-goers will definitely shine some hope into our kids' lives this holiday season."

New, unwrapped toys are needed for boys and girls between the ages of infant to 18 years old. For more information, contact Pomerville at (941) 639-8300 x 2275.

About AMIKids Crossroads

Crossroads is a non-profit 501(c)3 home and charter school for foster boys who have had multiple failed placements in the Florida foster care system. Crossroads specializes in these cases with boys between 13 and 18 years of age. Crossroads has specially trained staff, counselors and teachers who work to retrieve these kids from despair, help them grow, and then transition into well-adjusted and self-sufficient adults. For more information, visit www.AMIKidsCrossroads.org.

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