

**NANETTE LEONARD PUBLIC RELATIONS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE FRESH JERSEY TOMATOES  
TO HOLD 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL TOY DRIVE  
FOR CHILDREN RECEIVING SERVICES  
FROM CHARLOTTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE  
November 6<sup>th</sup> - December 7<sup>th</sup>**

**(PUNTA GORDA, FL.)** –The Fresh Jersey Tomatoes (FJT), a group of women originally from New Jersey who now reside in Charlotte County, are holding their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual FJT’s Toy Drive from November 6<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup> for underprivileged children, currently receiving services from Charlotte Behavioral Health Care (CBHC).

Holiday wrapped boxes will be located at some of your favorite local retail stores and restaurants, in addition to other Punta Gorda organizations. Donations of new/unwrapped toys for boys and girls, infants to 18 years old would be greatly appreciated. Each participating partner will have a list of toy suggestions (by age group).

**The most desperate need for gifts is those for boys and girls ages 13-18. Suggestions for girls include make-up kits, nail kits, art project kits, and small gift cards to Wal-Mart or Target. Suggestions for boys include tools/tool kits, model cars/airplanes, sports supplies, and small gift cards to Wal-Mart or Target.**

“We are so excited about our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Toy & Gift Drive. Our first year, the FJTs raised 500 toys, and last year we raised 700. Our sites are set on surpassing last year’s total. We hope while shopping for the holidays, you will make a donation to these children who face challenges on a daily basis. A small gift would bring great joy,” said Nanette Leonard/Founder, Fresh Jersey Tomatoes.

“The toy drive is being held in response to the urgent need of our struggling families,” said Kelly Pomerville, CBHC Director of Marketing & PR, “Toy donations will alleviate pressure on families that would have had to choose between purchasing holiday gifts and necessary staples, such as food. We are so thankful that the FJTs have stood up to shine some holiday spirit into these kids’ lives.”

Last year over 103 families and 175 children received the toys collected. These toys alleviate pressure on families that would have had to choose between purchasing holiday gifts and necessary staples, such as food. The drive also brought in “extra toys” that were donated to Golisano Children’s Hospital and

Children's Network of Southwest Florida. Children's Network of SWFL is the non-profit administer of the child welfare system in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades Counties. Children's Network is responsible for over 2,000 abused and neglected children, and delivers a comprehensive local system of care through subcontracts with more than 50 social service agencies (like CBHC).

Additional recipients include 20 adults and 15 children in the Crisis Stabilization Unit at CBHC.

**Donation boxes will be placed at the following businesses:**

CHARLOTTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE  
1700 Education Avenue  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 639-8300

COPPERFISH BOOKS  
103 W. Marion Avenue  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 205-2560

HIPNOTIQUE  
111 W. Marion Avenue  
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950  
(941) 347-7250

FRIENDLY FLOORS  
3785 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
(941) 624-0077

ISLES FITNESS  
1133 Bal Harbor Boulevard, Suite 1111  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 621-8238

NORTHSIDE PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES  
1032 Tamiami Trail, Unit #7  
Port Charlotte, FL 33953  
(941) 764-7988

PUNTA GORDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
252 W. Marion Avenue  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 639-3720

PUNTA GORDA FIRE DEPARTMENT (STATION 1)  
1410 Tamiami Trail  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 575-5529

PUNTA GORDA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
1410 Tamiami Trail  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 639-4111

NIX & ASSOCIATES  
2421 Shreve Street, Unit 111  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

(941) 225-4663

BEEF O'BRADY'S  
1105 Taylor Street  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 505-2333

**About Charlotte Behavioral Health Care**

Operating for 49 years, Charlotte Behavioral Health Care is our area's largest not-for-profit provider of community-based behavioral health care, offering a full range of mental health services and substance abuse treatment in Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, Sarasota, DeSoto, North Port, and Lee County. More than 2,000 children and a total of 15,000 residents are treated annually. We deliver care that changes people's lives. For more information, visit [www.cbhcfi.org](http://www.cbhcfi.org).

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