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## **Donation Creates a Bear-ly Nice Christmas at Presbyterian Children's Village**

### **1000 Bears from Untours Arrive Just in Time**

(Rosemont, PA) The Presbyterian Children's Village is pleased to accept 1000 adorable toy bears from Untours, a local travel company, to distribute to the many children who receive assistance from the Village during the Christmas season.

"This gift is particularly welcome during these difficult economic times," says Darlene Hewett, president and CEO of Presbyterian Children's Village. "We have dozens of churches and community groups, as well as many individuals, who traditionally give generously to our families who are living on the edge. We try to provide gifts to about 1000 children in our programs, as well as gifts of necessities like food and blankets to the families. This year, our donors are feeling the pinch, as we all are."

The bears arrived just in time for distribution to many of the foster children who attended the Village's annual Christmas party, complete with a requisite visit with Santa—who was very happy to distribute the bears to the children. Others have been given to other children in Village programs, and in the coming months will be given out as part of counseling and tutoring sessions.

Untours, a company which specializes in European and North American vacation rentals packages, donated the bears through its affiliated foundation, the Untours Foundation. The Untours Foundation, funded directly by the profits of its travel business, provides low-interest loans to entrepreneurial projects that create jobs, build low-income housing, or promote Fair Trade. Loans are provided to individuals and organizations that have little or no collateral and therefore are not eligible for financing from traditional sources. A series of unfortunate events left Little Souls, the company which made the toys, out of business, leaving Untours with an enormous supply of bears.

Hal Taussig, founder and President of Untours, commented, "One of our goals in doing this is to raise awareness of the growing gap between the rich and the poor. Even in these tough times, some of us have far more than we need, and we can certainly spare enough to provide a little joy and a few necessities to those who lack them."

The Presbyterian Children's Village provides a wide range of crucial services for at-risk and traumatized children and families. These include foster care, kinship care, adoption, In-Home services, mental health services, truancy services, after-school programs, residential services for troubled adolescents, and more. In all, the Village serves more than 7,000 children and families each year, encouraging healthy familial ties and strengthening the communities in the Greater Philadelphia region from its two facilities. The Village also provides the services from locations in Rosemont and Southwest Philadelphia. More information can be found at [www.pcv.org](http://www.pcv.org).

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