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**Event:** 9th Annual Castro Family & Ventura Police Community Foundation Toy Drive

**Toy Drop Off Location:** Ventura Police Department, 1425 Dowell Drive, Ventura, 93003

**Date/Time Toy Drop Off:** November 19 – December 14, Monday – Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

**Narrative:**

The Ventura Police Department announces the 9th Annual Castro Family & Ventura Police Community Foundation Toy Drive. The community is invited to donate unwrapped toys or gift cards for the patients and siblings of the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases at the Ventura County Medical Center. Donations, for ages infant to 18 years, will be accepted at the Ventura Police Department located at 1425 Dowell Drive Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 am and 5:30 pm from November 19 to December 14, 2018.

In 2008, Corey Castro was seven years old and was treated for Gorham's Disease, a rare bone disease. As a patient, he was asked if he wanted to pick out a toy from the center's toy box. Corey discovered the toy box needed more toys and asked his family if they could help fill the box for other children receiving treatment at the center. The Castro Family in partnership with the Ventura Police Community Foundation worked to make that dream a reality and has since provided toys and gifts to more than 1,500 patients and their siblings. The effort raises awareness about the only pediatric oncology and hematology center in Ventura County. Ventura Police Officers join the Castro Family in hosting a holiday party for the children and their families and help pass out gifts with Santa and Ventura Police K9s.

"Bringing joy to the brave junior crime fighters at VCMC is a humbling experience. Many of these children are fighting for their lives. We appreciate this opportunity to partner with the Castro Family and our community in providing a special evening for the children and their siblings during the holiday season," said Commander Sam Arroyo.

\*For more information please call 805-339-4317. The media is invited to the toy giving event on December 19 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at VCMC Auditorium located at 3291 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, CA 93003.