



NEWS RELEASE

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Public Safety Officials Partner with Cleveland Better Home Town to Help Needy Families

November 23, 2007 – Cleveland, Georgia – Cleveland Better Home Town and Local Public Safety Agencies have teamed up with The Bridge Church to provide toys, food and assistance to children and families in need this Christmas.”

“The Public Safety Christmas for Kids” is a heartfelt effort by our Public Safety heroes to join together to help those in need this season. Cleveland’s Chief of Police, John Foster and Cleveland Better Home Town Manager, Maria Jurado-Flynn are spearheading the project. At a meeting held today, Chief Foster appealed to Fire Chief Dickie Howard, Helen Police Chief Ted Ray, Cleveland Fire Chief Ricky Pruitt and Sheriff Neal Walden to all work together to collect toys for some needy children, but he went a step further and said he wanted to make sure they had a traditional Christmas Dinner. “I can’t bear to think that a little child would go hungry at Christmas,” said Chief Foster. The group will be appealing to local stores to assist in donating food for the families as well as appealing to the public to donate an unwrapped gift.

The Bridge Church has been selected to distribute the toys and food to local families. Pastor Ballington from The Bridge advised that an account has already been set up to accept cash donations, as some people may want to simply donate money to assist in the effort. Donation will be tax-deductible and can be made to: Mission Georgia. Toys may be dropped off now – December 14th at the following locations: (Cleveland City Hall Annex Building, Helen Police Department, White County Sheriff’s Office). Toys and donations may also be dropped off directly with The Bridge Church, located across the street from Truett-McConnell College.

Cleveland Better Home Town

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Christmas in the Mountains, in its 8th year is a celebration of this community's "Christmas Spirit." This event is a gift to the community and a time for all of us to gather and give thanks for those things we hold so dear, faith, family and friends. It's been a wonderful year for this little community. Sadly, there are people living in our neighborhoods that won't have Christmas unless we help them. "Let's Share Christmas with them by donating a toy for a child or making a donation for their Christmas Dinner.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs has designated Cleveland, Georgia a "Better Home Town." The mission of this non-profit organization is "to provide direction and leadership for revitalization of the old courthouse business center and downtown area." Donations are tax deductible and will assist with the downtown beautification.

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