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Family Charity Honors Child's Memory with Annual Tradition

Holiday Giving Tree 2011

"Kylee's Giving Tree" has helped over 5,000 children since 2002

Sacramento, June 17, 2011 – The requests for help are heartbreaking: "Mom died and her kindergartner comes to school sad and hungry." "I only want a real angel for Christmas." "Homeless family in need of winter coats, shoes and blankets for their children." "Pediatric ICU patient needs blankets, car seat, and baby clothes to be released from hospital." "Pediatric Hospice patients would like a teddy bear with a voice recorder to record voice for Mom." These are referrals from local agencies seeking help from the Kylee Lillich Charitable Giving Tree. In its 10th year, the local charity will make wishes come true for nearly 700 grieving, needy and hospitalized children year this year.

Kylee's family started the Giving Tree to honor the memory and spirit of their 23-month-old daughter. She was killed in a tragic and unbelievable accident in 2000, leaving her family – including twin brother, Kevin – stunned, grieving and feeling helpless. "Kylee was so loved and so blessed, and this is our way of passing those blessings on to others," said Traci Lillich, Kylee's mother and Giving Tree President.

The Kylee Lillich Charitable Giving Tree is a non-profit 501c3, all-volunteer local charity that helps children year-round. Donations go to children who are hospitalized, grieving the loss of a parent, brother or sister, or simply in need of basic items. Referrals have come in from more than 30 schools and local hospitals. Professionals work with parents or guardians to determine the child's needs and make referrals. Most children ask for new warm clothes, new toys, new blankets and new baby items, and occasionally a bike or special wish is granted. Cash donations are accepted and can be made online via PayPal at www.KyleesGivingTree.org. The program began in Woodland at Lee Middle School where Kylee's aunt Tara Keegan helped organize an informal giving tree for needy Woodland students.

We're seeking your help – Please Come support our efforts by HOSTING a HOLIDAY GIVING TREE at your office, business, church or social group. We bring you a small, medium or large tree with paper ORNAMENTS for individuals to take, buy the gift and return it before December 9th. Trees are available November 15th. We'll bring you posters, flyers, and a folder for tracking donors. It's easy, fun and rewarding knowing your gifts will go to a specific child to fulfill their special holiday wish.

Or, Host a Holiday NEW Toy Drive – Again, all donations are due December 9, 2011.

Please call Traci at (916) 419-9694 or (916) 747-9555 for more information.

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