



montgomeryhousingpartnership, inc.

Working Together to Build Strong Communities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Miracle on Elkin Street

Santa Scheduled to Visit 220 Apartments at Wheaton Apartment Complex

December 2, 2009 – Silver Spring, MD Each year, on the night of December 24th, the children of Wheaton line up with their faces pressed against the windows as a fire engine comes racing into their community with flashing lights and wailing siren. On the fire engine are Santa Claus and his wife with a truck full of presents! With a little help from the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad, Santa and Mrs. Claus disembark at Amherst Square and Pembridge Square Apartments and begin going door to door, distributing holiday gifts to 220 families living in the two communities.

Santa, along with his partners from the Wheaton/Kensington Chamber of Commerce, Wheaton Rescue Squad and Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP) will hand out bags of new toys collected through the **Angels for Children 11th Annual Toy Drive**. On Christmas Eve, December 24th from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., each family will receive a sack with three new toys and a teddy bear for each child.

The toy drive started in 1998, when a fatal house fire during the holiday season led to an outpouring of gifts from the close-knit community. The family was so inundated with gifts that they wanted to share them with their neighbors, many of whom were struggling financially. Steve Sobolewski, the head of the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad, saw this as an opportunity to create a community event that has grown to become a legendary holiday tradition in Wheaton.

Santa will arrive at 11504 Amherst Avenue, Wheaton, 20902. For exact arrival time, call 301-408-8906.

Montgomery Housing Partnership's mission is to preserve and expand affordable housing in Montgomery County. MHP manages owns over 1,000 units of housing for low to moderate income families.

