



For Immediate Release

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Local foster children experience the gift of giving at Christmas

(December 20, 2014 – Naples, FL) 128 foster children shopped for Christmas gifts at the Naples Walmart Supercenter on December 13 during the 14th annual *Gift of Giving* shopping spree. Sponsored by Germain Motor Company, the shopping experience was organized by the Friends of Foster Children of Southwest Florida (FFC) and engaged FFC tutors and board members, Rotarians, Germain employees and Guardian's ad Litem as volunteer shopping mentors.

Each child had a list of individuals they wanted to purchase gifts for -- some lists were long and others relatively short. Shopping carts were loaded with the help of the volunteer shopping assistants. Some children labored over just the right selection, while others knew exactly what they wanted to buy to bring smiles to the faces of those important in their lives. In two cases the choices were very moving as the children insisted on buying bread, milk and cheese for parents who were without food.

The *Gift of Giving* was made possible by the generous support of Germain Motor Company. Their financial gift allowed children between the ages of five and 18 to have \$100 each to shop for anyone they wanted, including parents, friends or teachers. And as a bonus, each child was given an additional \$25 to purchase something for themselves.

After a morning of holiday shopping, the children were transported to the Sports CLUB for lunch and gift wrapping. As usual, the day was exhilarating for everyone – volunteers and kids alike.

The mission of Friends of Foster Children is to focus on the children they serve by providing targeted educational and enrichment opportunities that allow each child to fulfill their potential. FFC, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, works to fulfill the unmet needs of every child who enters, or is at risk of entering the foster care system in Southwest Florida. FFC will follow the child wherever they are placed.

For more information about Friends of Foster Children of Southwest Florida (FFC), visit www.friendsoffosterchildren.net or call (239) 262-1808.