



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Diane Glad

(801) 870-3925

diane@richardpaulevans.com

Live interviews with Director Celeste Edmunds and/or author Richard Paul Evans are available.

The Christmas Box House Charity calls on Community for Holiday Support to Provide Christmas for more than 2,500 Children

(SALT LAKE CITY, UT – December 8, 2021) This year, The Christmas Box International hopes to provide Christmas for more than 2,500 at-risk children in Utah, and they need the public’s help. The Christmas Box International is sponsoring its annual Project Elf Campaign to raise funds and collect in-kind donations for children and families served by The Christmas Box House emergency shelters and resource centers.

For the last two decades, The Christmas Box International has provided holiday gifts for more than 45,000 children through their Project Elf Campaign. “It’s a great time of year for people to give in a way that feels meaningful to them,” states Celeste Edmunds, executive director of The Christmas Box International. “Through Project Elf, companies and individuals are invited to donate gifts, clothing, gift cards, or a monetary donation to help ensure that the children we serve can have a happy holiday season.”

As a child who grew up in the foster care system, Edmunds knows firsthand what these youth are going through. “Often, the children we are helping are not looking for much, just a sense of normalcy and belonging—like getting a new shirt with a tag on it.”

“Safety isn’t seasonal,” said Richard Paul Evans, president, and chair of The Christmas Box International. “We serve children 365 days a year and need to make Christmas happen at our emergency shelters and resource centers for families served by the state within our community.”

Evans said the charity works in partnership with Salt Lake County and the Division of Child & Family Services, and there are online Christmas Wish Lists of specific needs of children and families. Donations are accepted Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. through December 23 at the Salt Lake or Ogden Christmas Box Houses.

The community can learn more about The Christmas Box International and Project Elf by visiting www.thechristmasbox.org. Questions may be directed to kristin@thechristmasbox.org or by calling (801) 747-2201 ext. 107.

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What is The Christmas Box House?

- *The Christmas Box House is an emergency shelter for children who have been victims of abuse, trafficking, or neglect. The Christmas Box House was founded in 1996 by New York Times best-selling author Richard Paul Evans after his first novel The Christmas Box became a global bestseller.*
- *The Christmas Box International partners with local, national, and international communities and organizations to prevent and improve the quality of life for children, teens, and young adults who have been victims of abuse, trafficking, or neglect.*

- *Over the last two decades, The Christmas Box International has protected more than 125,000 children. In 2020, The Christmas Box House International served 8,900 youth, providing shelter for more than 11,966 days of care.*