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## **News Release**

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**Release Immediately**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Joy of a Toy Gift Drive**

#### **Aims to Distribute 1,000 Toys to BETA Teen Moms and Families!**

BETA Center announces its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Joy of a Toy Gift Drive to take place now through December 12, 2011. The Gift Drive's focus is ...*from Teens to Tots!* Last year, through the Gift Drive more than 900 toys were distributed to BETA teen moms and their children, and organizers expect the need to be much greater this year.

The gift drive directly benefits teen moms and their children in the BETA Center program, according to Ruth Patrick, BETA Center's president & CEO. The agency's mission is to give children and families the knowledge and support needed for strong and healthy families, with a focus on teen moms and at-risk families. "At our annual holiday party, we celebrate the spirit of the season and honor the strength and determination of our teen moms, children, and their families." Lisa Blackwelder, director of development, said, "An important part of our celebration is bringing a smile to the faces to the families we serve. A meaningful gift can provide comfort and security to a mother or a child who has experienced significant odds," she added.

"It's the season of giving," said Tina Williams, Public Relation Coordinator at Sonny's Franchise Company, BETA's largest corporate-drive partner. As an active supporter of the community, Williams adds that it is an easy way "to give joy and happiness during the holidays. I know the families at BETA Center will truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity."

Drop off sites are located at local Sonny's Bar-B-Q Restaurant, Tuni on Park Avenue in Winter Park, and at BETA Center. Unwrapped gifts may be placed in the decorated holiday boxes at each location.

For more information or to request pick-up of your donation, contact Lisa Blackwelder, director of development, at [lblackwelder@betacenter.org](mailto:lblackwelder@betacenter.org) or 407-398-6213.

#### *About BETA Center*

*At BETA Center, we strive to empower children and parents with the support and education necessary for building healthy families, while focusing on at-risk families and teen moms. Through a variety of programming, including the BETA Alternative School, residential services, and outreach initiatives, we have made serving Central Florida's families more than just our mission – it's our passion!*