



**JNESO**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL 1, IUOE / AFL-CIO  
*the professional health care union*

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For Immediate Release

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### **JNESO Brings Holiday Gifts to Women and Children in Need through Angel Tree Program**

New Brunswick (Dec. 23, 2021) – The needs of women and children were the focus of the second annual Angel Tree Donation Drive sponsored by the nurses and techs of JNESO District Council 1, the professional health care union.

JNESO partnered with several battered women’s shelters, family centers, community organizations, and public health clinics in Camden, Essex, Gloucester, and Passaic County for the Angel Tree Drive. Each organization provided a list of families and a wish list that JNESO developed into a registry for members to shop, purchase and ship directly to the organization or recipient’s home.

JNESO members collected clothes, winter coats, educational toys, Legos, tablets, hand-held games, toy cars/trucks, dolls, science and craft kits, and household goods which were donated to 29 families, 71 children, and 8 single women.

“As one center told me, abused women and children, particularly single women, are the forgotten ones. A lot of families are really hurting, and many were even before this pandemic, but this year was an exceptionally different situation,” said Thurese Calhoun, Community Organizer at JNESO. “One shelter said the biggest need for single women was flannel pajamas and one of our staff members stepped up and donated two sets for each woman in the facility.”

Dozens of members from JNESO’s local chapters participated in the drive including St. Michael’s Medical Center, Newark Public Health, St. Mary’s Hospital Techs, Cedar Grove, Virtua Health.

Calhoun said response to the Angel Tree program has been wonderful. “One family found out about the Angel Tree project from the local hospital and passed it on to another that was equally in need, who said, ‘I used to work, and am not comfortable asking, but if you can provide something for my family -- not for me -- it would be such a blessing!’”

Calhoun stated, “Our hope is to do more for this community in the future, not just during the holidays but throughout the year to help fulfill some of the needs these women and children have.”

JNESO members have a long history of giving back to the communities where they live and work, and are dedicated to supporting and volunteering to serve a variety of community-based, health-related, and charitable organizations.

JNESO District Council 1 is a healthcare union representing more than 5,000 nurses and other health care workers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. For more information, visit <http://www.jneso.org/>

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