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For Immediate Release

League wraps up holiday season with toy drive

Naperville, IL., December 23, 2009 – Staff from the Illinois Credit Union League (ICUL) provided toys for many patients at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

By holding the drive, ICUL helped to fulfill Children’s Memorial’s need for small gifts and toys. Many areas of the hospital regularly provide patients with “give-away” size prizes after a hard day of tests or treatments. In addition, their Skylight TV network hosts several in-house television game shows each week. The philosophy of the game show is that “everybody’s a winner”, so the need for small prizes has been on-going, with the greatest need for the infant/ toddler age group. In addition, due to the economy, there is also a need for gas cards and grocery store gift certificates for the families having to travel to visit their children at the hospital.

Children’s Memorial is celebrating its 125th year of serving children and their families. Licensed for 270 beds, the hospital’s medical staff includes 1,100 pediatric specialists and offers 70 pediatric specialties. In 2009, Children’s Memorial served more than 141,000 children from every state and 36 countries.

The toy drive was one of several charitable actions carried out by the League in 2009. Other activities included a food drive and financial donations to homeless shelters and food pantries throughout Illinois.

“This has been a year of great need for many people. Rather than sending out its traditional holiday greetings, the Illinois Credit Union System, chose on behalf of its member credit unions, to coordinate, organize, and participate in these activities,” said Dan Plauda, ICUL president/chief executive director. We feel blessed to have been able to give back to our communities.”

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Note: The Illinois Credit Union League (ICUL) is the primary trade association for credit unions in Illinois, which provides members with information, legislation and education. Membership is open to any credit union operating in accordance with the Illinois Credit Union Act or the Federal Credit Union Act. There are 408 credit unions in Illinois with more than 2.7 million members.