

## Butler County Extension Office preparing for Annual Toy Drive

The Butler County Extension Office would like to give to back to a very special cause this holiday season. We will be hosting a Toy Drive to benefit the Sunshine Children's Home in Andover, which is a project of Sunlight Children's Advocacy & Rights Foundation (SCARF) – created in 2004 by a group of Butler County citizens who worked every day in the trenches of abuse. A sense of safety is perhaps the most lasting loss an abused child experiences, and SCARF has identified Sunshine Children's Home as a safe haven for these most vulnerable children at risk;

All too often, children have to be taken into temporary protective custody until either a healthy reintegration into the family can be accomplished or other longer term arrangements can be made. Sunshine Children's Home provides a temporary residence for these children, closer to home, and without separating them from their siblings." The children's home provides a temporary safe place for children primarily residing in Butler, Elk, and Greenwood counties who are faced with hardships grievous enough to warrant removal from their homes and caregivers.

At Sunshine Children's Home, children ranging from infants to teens will be cared for by caring professionals in their own community. In addition to toys, things that are needed for the Children's Home include cleaning supplies, infant care supplies, snacks, and hygiene products. We are hoping to gather the following list of items by December 15<sup>th</sup> to drop off at the Children's Home to benefit those most vulnerable in our community:

- ❖ Bottles/nipples
- ❖ Wipes
- ❖ Pacifiers
- ❖ Sippy cups
- ❖ Baby bath/wash
- ❖ Action figures
- ❖ Plastic animal sets
- ❖ Cars/trucks
- ❖ Barbie's (all ethnicities)
- ❖ Craft kits
- ❖ Slinkies
- ❖ Fidget spinners
- ❖ Make up kits
- ❖ Nail kits
- ❖ Scented lotions
- ❖ Hair accessories
- ❖ Bath/body gift sets
- ❖ Nail polish
- ❖ Hand held games
- ❖ Body wash/cologne sets
- ❖ Nail kits
- ❖ Decks of cards
- ❖ Canned fruits
- ❖ Canned vegetables
- ❖ Individual snacks
- ❖ Juice boxes/juice
- ❖ Bleach/Pinesol
- ❖ Dishwasher detergent
- ❖ Individual shampoo/conditioner
- ❖ Dryer sheets
- ❖ Toilet paper/ paper towels
- ❖ Tooth paste
- ❖ Lip balm/chapstick
- ❖ Puzzle books
- ❖ Coloring books (children & young adult)
- ❖ Markers, Colored pencils, Crayons
- ❖ Journals
- ❖ Floor pillows/Bean bags
- ❖ Water color paint sets
- ❖ Walkman CD players
- ❖ Head phones

Anyone who would like to donate to this Toy Drive is encouraged to drop off new, unwrapped items at the Butler County Extension Office by December 15<sup>th</sup> located at 206 N Griffith St in El Dorado. For questions about this Toy Drive, please contact the Butler County Extension Office at 316-321-9660.