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NEWS RELEASE

Esse Health's Tesson Ferry Office Donates Blankets, Teddy Bears

Items given to Franklin County Family Services and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

ST. LOUIS – Esse Health's <u>Tesson Ferry Pediatrics & Internal Medicine</u> office made the holiday season a little brighter this year for foster care children in Franklin and Jefferson counties. The employees made 30 blankets and collected 30 teddy bears before bundling them together and donating them to Franklin County Family Services and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Franklin County Family Services gave the 15 blankets and teddy bears to foster care children on Dec. 22 during Santa's visit to the office. Jefferson County Sheriff Oliver "Glenn" Boyer passed out the 15 blankets and teddy bears to its narcotics unit for children taken away from unsafe homes. This is the second year Tesson Ferry Pediatrics & Internal Medicine collected and donated these items.

Photos of the teddy bears and blankets can be found at the following links:

- <u>http://bit.ly/zHufGB</u>: Tesson Ferry Internal Medicine employees Nancy Rogers, Christine Sweet and Jen Henry pose with Jefferson County Sheriff Oliver "Glenn" Boyer.
- <u>http://bit.ly/x65xKW</u>: Tesson Ferry Pediatrics employees Terry Elliott and Myra Davis hold up one of the blankets while employees from the Franklin County Family Services pose in the background.

"We understand what a terrible ordeal these children must go through when they are taken from their homes," said Office Manager Karen Hegger. "We hope the soft blankets and teddy bears provide some sort of comfort during this traumatic time."

Esse Health is a St. Louis-based physician group that strives to improve the overall well-being of its patients through patient education, lifestyle modification and prevention. With 29 locations throughout the St. Louis and Metro East area, Esse Health's services include asthma, allergy and immunology, family medicine, internal medicine, nutrition, pediatrics and radiology. Esse Health is recognized as a leader in using technology in health care and physician accountability for both quality and cost-of-care. For more information on Esse Health, visit <u>www.essehealth.com</u>.