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NEWS RELEASE

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Esse Health Donates Blankets, Teddy Bears to Foster Care Children

Tesson Pediatrics & Internal Medicine office takes part in Foundations for Franklin County drive

ST. LOUIS – Esse Health’s Tesson Pediatrics & Internal Medicine Office made blankets and collected teddy bears for the Foundations for Franklin County Inc.’s campaign, which collected clothing, toys and everyday items to give to the more than 200 children currently in foster care in the 20th Judicial Court. (A photo of several bears and blankets ready to be delivered can found here: <http://budurl.com/BearsBlankets>.)

A few more photos of the donation can be found at the links below:

- Office Manager Karen Hegger poses with one of the teddy bears and blankets: <http://budurl.com/KarenBear>.
- Esse Health Pediatric providers (left to right): Karen Diehl, Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Dr. Matthew Dougherty, Dr. Catherine R. Remus and Dr. Charles H. Dougherty hold up their bears and blankets ready to be delivered: <http://budurl.com/DoctorsandBears>
- Esse Health Internal Medicine providers: Dr. Michael Fedak, Dr. Todd Hammond, Dr. Thomas Doerr, Physician Assistant Meredyth Schroyer and Dr. Sonal Shah pose with teddy bears and blankets: <http://budurl.com/DoctorsandBears2>

“We are humbled to be a part of such a great drive that helps out those who need it most – children without permanent homes,” said Hegger. “I’m proud of all of our providers and staff who donated their time and money to support this cause and look forward to continuing to help out our surrounding community.”

The drive, which started in mid-November, raised more than \$10,000 in cash donations and enough items were collected to fill two tractor-trailer units. Foundations for Franklin County is the narcotics unit's nonprofit arm that focuses on education, rehabilitation and treatment programs.

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 28 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 www.essehealth.com.