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C&L WARD AND FLINT FIREBIRDS PARTNER FOR 3rd ANNUAL "STUFF THE TRUCK" FOOD, TOILETRIES AND WINTER WEAR DRIVE *Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties to Benefit*

November 14, 2016 (Davison & Flint, MI) - C&L Ward has partnered with the Flint Firebirds Hockey Team for their 3rd annual "Stuff the Truck" food, toiletries and winter wear drive to benefit Catholic Charities' three Soup Kitchens and Center for Hope Community Closet. The event, which will kick off Catholic Charities' '25 Days of Giving' promotion in conjunction with WEYI/WSMH NBC 25/Fox 66, will be held on Wednesday, November 23 (the day before Thanksgiving). The goal is to fill one or more of C&L Ward's trucks with non-perishable canned goods and other food, toiletries, warm clothing and household items such as blankets during the event. Monetary donations will be accepted, as well. The truck will be at Dort Federal Event Center at noon for donations and the event with fun and refreshments will take place from 5pm-7pm for the Flint Firebirds game that evening. There will be a free ticket to that night's Firebirds game for fans who donate three or more items and/or one coat or blanket (one ticket, per person present, per three items). In addition, C&L Ward will offer refreshments and a chance to register for a VIP ticket and merchandise package for the December 2nd Firebirds game and C&L Ward's 10K Home Makeover. In addition to the drive, the Flint Firebirds will donate that evening's earnings from the 50/50 drawing to Catholic Charities. Those wishing to drop off donations prior to November 23rd, may do so beginning Monday, November 14th at the Dort Federal Event Center, C&L Ward's Davison location at 9284 Lapeer Roa, or Catholic Charities' North End Soup Kitchen located at 735 East Stewart Avenue, Flint. Tickets for the November 23rd game will be available at each of these locations when the donation is made.

"There are so many individuals and families in our community who are struggling to get by; I think this is especially true during the holiday season," Vicky Schultz, President and CEO of Catholic Charities commented. "We are so grateful to C&L Ward for joining Catholic Charities and the Flint Firebirds to help those in need, and for their ongoing commitment to giving back to our community," adds Schultz.

"We have worked with Catholic Charities in the past and understand the real and immediate need in our community for not only hot meals from the soup kitchen but toiletries, clothing and household items for those that the community closet serves," stated Michelle Shook, Vice President Marketing and Communications for C & L Ward. "We chose the day before Thanksgiving to show our gratitude to this wonderful community who has been so supportive of us for the last 44 years. We feel that people will be shopping for their own Thanksgiving feasts during this time, so we want to encourage them to buy a little extra and bring it to the game to help us fill our van so those in need have these items during the cold winter months." Shook continues, "The Flint Firebirds are a great partner of ours and expanding the event for its third year has been a huge benefit to Catholic Charities."

“We are honored to be partnering with our sponsor C&L Ward to help “Stuff the Truck” for Catholic Charities and help kick off the 25 Days of Giving with NBC 25/Fox 66,” said Susana Wight, Director of Community Relations and Marketing for the Flint Firebirds. “They provide such an important service to our community.”

Catholic Charities’ three Soup Kitchens served more than 197,000 meals to Genesee County residents last year and rely heavily on donations to make this possible. They accept non-perishable food items, cutlery kits, cups, napkins, and monetary donations. Foods most needed currently are: pasta, tomato sauce, canned vegetables, canned meat, rice, beans, boxed potatoes, stuffing and canned fruit.

Catholic Charities’ Center for Hope Community Closet distributes toiletries, household items and clothing to the less fortunate. They are most in need of bar soap, dish soap, laundry soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper and deodorant. They gladly accept travel-sized and hotel toiletries. In addition, there is an urgent need for new or gently used winter items such as hats, gloves, mittens, coats, snow pants, boots, blankets, etc., for all ages, especially for children. They have distributed more than 900 coats since October 1 of this year and need many more. As a side note, any clothing needing repair should be put in a separate bag and labeled. Catholic Charities has volunteers who will repair the items, making them wearable for the recipients.

C&L Ward does several fundraisers throughout the year including an annual breast cancer fundraiser, their annual roof giveaway and their “Likes for Dollars” Facebook campaign which benefits organizations in Genesee County, the Great Lakes Bay region, Metro Detroit and Greater Lansing.

About C&L Ward

C & L Ward is Michigan’s top provider of exterior home improvement replacement products and services. Founded in 1972, C & L Ward is a family-owned and operated corporation that is strongly committed to complete customer satisfaction. They have three interactive showroom locations displaying windows, siding, roofing & decking products and service the Flint, Great Lakes Bay, Lansing and Metro Detroit areas. Recognized by both *Qualified Remodeler* and *Remodeling* magazines as one of the nation’s top remodeling firms in the last 6 consecutive years, they have over 30,000 satisfied clients and offer FREE in-home consultations. For more information, visit them at goclward.com.

About Flint Firebirds

The Flint Firebirds are a proud member of the prestigious Ontario Hockey League (OHL) based in Flint, Michigan, USA. The team is part of the West Division of the Western Conference in the OHL, known as the premiere development league for the NHL. The Firebirds players, generally ranging in ages between 16 and 20, play their home games at the Dort Federal Event Center in Flint between September and March.

About Catholic Charities of Genesee and Shiawassee Counties

Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties has been **Providing Help** and **Creating Hope** for people in need since 1941, serving all people regardless of faith. This diverse social services agency offers an array of programs including counseling, substance use treatment, prevention and education, foster care, adoption, Center for Hope Community Closet and Warming Center as well as the North End, Center for Hope and South Flint Soup Kitchens. For more information about services, please call 810-232-9950.

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