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Dear Church Leader,

As we look forward to this Christmas season we want to thank those of you that have participated in past donation programs for families who are facing difficult circumstances. Many children and families have been touched by the generosity of individuals sharing and contributing to the lives of others in practical ways in our community. We are happy to extend the invitation to you and others who would like to consider helping us expand our model for Christmas giving –**The Community Toy Store**.

Rebound has been using this model of giving that promotes development by allowing families to be fully engaged in providing gifts for their children. The Community Toy Store is built off a partnership between local Churches, other organizations and the local community. In its first year 15 families were served and by last year that number jumped to 100 families. Going into the Toy Store's fourth year, we have the possibility of serving close to 200 families from our community, but we need your help! The Community Toy Store will be held at Birchwood Elementary this year. It will be open on Friday, December 11th from 6:30 PM until 8:30 PM and again on Saturday, December 12th, 9:00 AM-12:00PM (or until all toys have been sold). We are asking you to partner with us this holiday season.

Parents are presented with the chance to experience the joy and dignity of personally providing for their children by being invited to a store that is stocked with brand new toys and clothing gift cards donated by the community. Parents may purchase items donated for their children at least 70% below retail cost. This means that a family spending \$25 at the store will leave with items valuing over \$100. Only cash and checks would be accepted to promote responsible spending. Opportunities to earn spending money for the store will be available on a case-by-case basis to help insure that all families are able to participate.

Any proceeds from the sale of gifts will be donated to support programs at Rebound of Whatcom County and The Whatcom Dream, allowing families not only to be recipients but contributors as well. In the past families have been very grateful. One family commented last year, "keep the change from my purchase and put it in a fund so more can enjoy this experience next year".

If you would be willing to host a toy collection at your Church, we will provide an 11" x 17" poster to label your collection container, a suggested list of age-appropriate gifts, and make arrangements for pick up or delivery of the donated gifts. Please email or call Jessica at Jessica@reboundwc.org or (360) 714-0700 to receive more details or answers to your questions. Also please visit our website www.communitytoystore.org for more information. We will be making follow-up phone calls the week of October 20th. We look forward to talking with you about the possibility of working with you to help families facing adverse circumstances provide Christmas for their families this year.

Blessings,


Sharon Aller, Executive Director