

A Beary Merry Christmas

Utah Jazz Bear and Firemen & Friends for Kids Bring Holiday Cheer to Children in Need

SALT LAKE CITY (December 7, 2006) - The actual holiday may be a little more than two weeks away, but Christmas will come early this Saturday, December 9 for 180 children from the Sorensen Multi-Cultural Center, the Neighborhood House, Guadalupe Schools and the Dream Center. The Utah Jazz mascot, Bear, will join these children in a holiday shopping excursion at Wal-Mart, located at 5469 South Redwood Road. The event, sponsored by Firemen & Friends for Kids, gives underprivileged youth the opportunity to purchase items for themselves and their families.

Some will buy toys, some will buy clothes and others will purchase groceries and household necessities. A few will even purchase gifts for their parents. In true Bear style, there are no limitations. The children will be escorted through the store by volunteers.

Volunteers will begin arriving at the Sorensen Multi-Cultural Center, located at 855 West California Avenue (1300 South), at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday December 9. Children selected by the Sorensen Multi-Cultural Center, Guadalupe Schools, the Neighborhood House and the Dream Center will arrive at 7 a.m. Participants will enjoy entertainment and be served a light breakfast provided by the Junior League of Salt Lake City before heading to Wal-Mart by bus. Buses will be escorted by the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Department and fire trucks from local fire departments.

The group will arrive at Wal-Mart at approximately 8 a.m. to begin shopping and will head back to the Sorensen Multi-Cultural Center when finished. The event will end at approximately 10:30 a.m.