



For Immediate Release

December 15, 2014

Contacts: Cirillo World/John Cirillo 914.260.7436 johnnycigarpr@aol.com;
Empire City Casino/Taryn Duffy 914.457.2431 tduffy@empirecitycasino.com

Media Advisory & Photo Opportunity

**Empire City Casino Toy & Coat Drive Donation Wednesday, December 17 at 12:30pm -
Donation Will Assist Hundreds of Families & Children in Need this Holiday Season**

Westchester, NY— Empire City Casino President & CEO, Timothy J. Rooney will present over 600 toys and hundreds of coats collected in the casino's Eighth Annual "Christmas Spirit" Toy and Coat Drive to Catholic Charities on Wednesday, December 17, at 12:30 PM. Donations will be accepted by the Catholic Charities executive director Monsignor Kevin Sullivan.

Who: **Timothy J. Rooney**, President and CEO of Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway;
Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, Executive Director, Catholic Charities Community Services;
Westchester County Executive **Rob Astorino**;
Mayor of the City of Yonkers **Mike Spano**;
Assemblymember **Shelley Mayer**, District 90, Yonkers;
Yonkers City Council Member **Corazon Pineda**;
Sister Christine Hennessy, Catholic Charities Community Services;
Órla Kelleher, Executive Director, Aisling Irish Community Center;
Josh Blake, President of California-based family-owned company, Jams.

What: Donation of over 600 toys and hundreds of coats for families in need to Catholic Charities through Empire City's annual Christmas Spirit Toy & Coat Drive

When: **Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 12:30pm**

Where: Valet Entrance
Empire City Casino
810 Yonkers Avenue, NY, 10704

For the eighth consecutive year, Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway President and CEO Timothy J. Rooney and Catholic Charities is teaming up to make the holiday season happier for New York families in need. Empire City "Christmas Spirit Toy and Coat Drive" began November 29th and continues through Wednesday, December 17. Patrons can donate new, unwrapped toys and/or new or gently used coats anytime during that period. The items will be delivered to Catholic Charities-supported agencies for the Christmas Holidays. The toy and coat drive has become a holiday tradition at Empire City Casino, and thousands of toys and coats have been donated since 2007 when the campaign was launched.

Josh Blake, President of California-based and family-owned company, **Jams**, is bringing some West Coast warmth to New York families in need by donating 500 toys to the annual drive for the third consecutive year. **John Lennon**, owner of Yonkers-based **Smart Move & Storage**, will again generously donate services to transport and store of all donations while they are distributed by local community organizations.

Empire City Casino has a long history of working with Catholic Charities to help New Yorkers in need, non-Catholics and Catholics alike.

"There are no greater deeds than charity and service," says Rooney.

For Empire City information log onto www.empirecitycasino.com, or call 914 968-4200; for Catholic Charities, contact Communications Director Paul Costiglio at 646-794-2240 or email Paul.Costiglio@archny.org.

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