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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(December 16, 2025)

**Los Angeles General Medical Center Celebrates 43rd Annual CARES Holiday Gift Celebration for Patients and Their Families**

**Los Angeles, CA — December 16, 2025** —Los Angeles General Medical Center proudly marked the 43rd Annual CARES Holiday Gift Celebration, reaffirming its long-standing commitment to supporting patients and families during the holiday season. Since its inception more than four decades ago, the CARES program has brought comfort, dignity, and holiday joy to hundreds of thousands of children and families across Los Angeles, becoming one of the medical center's most cherished traditions.

What began as a small act of compassion has grown into a large-scale, community-powered effort. Through a continued partnership with the National Charity League of San Marino, and the generosity of community donors, volunteers, and LA General staff, CARES has delivered Santa Sacks filled with toys, gifts, fresh food, and warm clothing to families facing medical, emotional, and financial hardship year after year.

Families were supported through referrals coordinated by LA General's Social Work Department, including pediatric patients, their siblings, and children of hospitalized parents. Referrals continue through Christmas Eve, ensuring families in need can access support throughout the holiday season.

Each Santa Sack was thoughtfully assembled for children from birth through age 17, providing both practical necessities and moments of joy during what can be an especially difficult time for families navigating illness or extended hospital stays.

"The CARES Holiday Gift Celebration represents the very best of Los Angeles General," said Jorge Orozco, Chief Executive Officer of Los Angeles General Medical Center. "It reflects our belief that healing extends beyond medical care — it includes compassion, dignity, and standing alongside families when they need it most."

"CARES is about meeting families where they are, with empathy and respect," said Maritza Morales, Executive Director of CARES. "Every Santa Sack represents a reminder to our families that they are not alone and that this community cares deeply about their well-being."

Now in its 43rd year, the CARES Holiday Gift Celebration continues to grow in reach and impact, embodying LA General's mission to deliver world class care while strengthening the communities it serves.

Community members interested in learning more about the CARES Holiday Gift Program may visit [www.lacusccares.org](http://www.lacusccares.org).

**About Los Angeles General Medical Center**

Los Angeles General Medical Center is a 600 bed, Level One Trauma Center operated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services (DHS). A Magnet®-designated hospital in affiliation with the University of Southern California (USC) and the College of Nursing, LA General is a leader in trauma and specialty care, delivering cutting-edge treatment through its world-class Burn Center, Level III Neonatal ICU, and comprehensive pediatric and psychiatric emergency services. The hospital combines clinical excellence, innovation, and education to set the standard for advanced healthcare across Southern California.