

# Okaloosa County News Release

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## Okaloosa County EMS Take Patients “Home for the Holidays”

Emergency Medical Services (EMS), a division of the Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety, will be offering **free transportation** on a space available basis to local residents who would otherwise be unable to come home for holiday celebrations. The “**Home for the Holidays**” program will provide transportation on **Christmas Eve or Christmas Day only**, from the hours of **8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.** All requests for transportation must be received **no later than December 20, 2010.**

“This is Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety’s way of saying “Happy Holidays,” and demonstrate that we truly care about the health, safety and welfare of residents in Okaloosa County,” exclaimed Public Safety Director Dino Villani. The program is designed to allow patients in skilled nursing and adult congregate living facilities to go home and be with family members for holiday dinner. Patients must be self-supporting while at the residence, and be left in the care of a responsible family member.

Okaloosa County EMS will provide free roundtrip transportation originating and ending in Okaloosa County. “The Home for the Holidays program originated here 15 years ago and is catching on in other counties,” stated EMS Division Chief Al Herndon. “The Emergency Medical Services’ staff look forward to providing this special service each year.”

If you need additional information or would like to schedule transportation, please call 651-7150, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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