

Okaloosa County News Release

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Okaloosa Co. Public Safety Helps Out During Holidays, Holds 2 Events

Public Safety Food Drive for Sharing & Caring at Publix, Dec. 7

EMS Takes Patients Home for the Holidays, Dec. 24 or 25

Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety is sponsoring a food drive on **Wednesday, December 7**. The Food Drive will be held in the Publix parking lot at the corner of Eglin Parkway and Racetrack Road in Fort Walton Beach, and in the Crestview Publix, from **1:00 until 4:00 p.m.** Look for the ambulance in the parking lot. All the food collected will be donated to Sharing and Caring of Okaloosa County.

Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will kick off the “**Home for the Holidays**” program providing 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 19, 2011**.

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. Free transportation is on a space available basis, with roundtrip originating and ending in Okaloosa County. “The Home for the Holidays program originated here over 15 years ago and is catching on in other counties,” stated EMS Division Chief Al Herndon. “The Emergency Medical Services’ staff looks forward to this special service each year, as well as appreciates Publix and the community support of the Food Drive.”

Okaloosa County Public Safety Department consists of EMS, Beach Safety, 911 Communications and Emergency Management Divisions. 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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