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## Letter to the Editor: Please Donate to Springfield HOPE Toy Drive

Springfield Mom remembers family tragedy, asks for help for Springfield families in need.

By [Adam Bulger](#) | [Email the author](#) | November 29, 2011

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Greetings,

This is the time of year for everyone to reflect on all the things that have happened both good and bad over the last year either to us personally or to someone we know or love. I would like to take a minute to share my story with you. I am a single mother with two healthy children, a family that others only dream of having and I work at our family's amazing, rewarding, company where I can help others every day. I am one of the lucky few who really want for nothing.

February 20, 2011 is a date that I will always remember. My children and I were asleep and around 11 p.m. my puppy woke me up scratching at my face and crying. I thought that she needed to go out. I went down the stairs with her and to my horror saw that my [entire kitchen was in flames](#).

I raced up the stairs to get my children and we raced out of the house barefoot in our pajamas. At that moment I realized that we were losing everything. The fire department came (four alarms) and my wonderful, loving neighbors came to help me and my sons. My parents, who live in Springfield, were there within minutes. I realized that I was homeless and we went to stay with my parents.

The scariest, saddest, and most profound moment of my life turned into a gift I will remember forever. The community support, the support from the schools and from so many people who are now my dear friends will never be forgotten because everyone gave from their hearts. By the next day, my children had clothes for school and toys to play with because of good people.

I lost everything but honestly I lost nothing. I have my children, family, friends and my hero puppy. I consider myself one of the luckiest people alive and now it is time to give back by donating to the charity that donated to me.

My family company, SENIORS IN PLACE, LLC, located in the Whitestone Building, 155 MORRIS AVENUE (first floor), SPRINGFIELD, N.J.07081, is accepting new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages to donate to [Springfield H.O.P.E](#), a local charity. Toys may be dropped off Monday through Friday between 9am -6pm from now until December 19, 2011.

Springfield H.O.P.E. is an amazing charity. They helped me get what I needed and helped bring normalcy back to my children. It's my turn to give back. Please help us help children have a happy holiday.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Mia Kebea and the Seniors in Place, LLC family

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2 Comments

Gary Hecht

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9:32am on Tuesday, November 29, 2011

As one of the trustees of Springfield HOPE, it is my honor every day to assist the residents of Springfield in their times of need. Toys are only one aspect of what we do for the residents throughout the year.

Additional drop off locations for the toy drive are All 5 Springfield public schools, St. James School, Hecht Chiropractic, Springfield Fire House and town Hall, Cappilli E Mani Salon, and Investors Bank.

We can only accept new and unwrapped toys. Also appreciated are Target and Barnes & Noble gift cards for distribution to older children.

Financial donations are accepted at my office, 201 Mountain avenue and are fully tax deductible as we are a 501C3 charity registered with the IRS.

Have a healthy and happy holiday season. Dr. Gary

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mia

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2:11pm on Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Thank you so much for posting my story and helping us help others.

Regards,

Mia Kebea and the Seniors In Place Family

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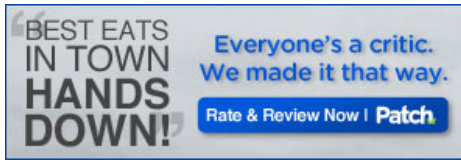
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