



montgomeryhousingpartnership, inc.

Working Together to Build Strong Communities

12200 Tech Road, Suite 250, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 Phone: 301-622-2400 Fax: 301-622-2800

www.MHPartners.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Maureen Sweeney Smith

443-326-5474 (cell)

301-622-2400 X38

msmith@MHPartners.org

www.MHPartners.org

Miracle on Elkin Street

Santa Scheduled to Visit 220 Apartments at Wheaton Apartment Complex

December 23, 2007 – Silver Spring, MD Each year, on the night of December 24th, the children of Wheaton line up with their little faces pressed against the windows as a fire engine comes racing into their community with flashing lights and wailing siren, because among the passengers are none other than jolly old Santa Claus and his wife! With a little help from the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad, Santa and Mrs. Claus disembark at Amherst Square and Pembridge Square Apartments and begin going door to door, distributing holiday gifts to 220 families living in the two communities.

Santa, along with his partners from the Wheaton/Kensington Chamber of Commerce, Wheaton Rescue Squad and Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP) will hand out bags of new toys collected through the **Angels for Children 9th Annual Toy Drive**. On Christmas Eve, December 24th from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., each family will receive a sack with two new toys and a teddy bear for each child and a complimentary pass to Brookside Garden's *Garden of Lights* for the family.

The toy drive started in 1998, when a house fire during the holiday season led to an outpouring of gifts from the close-knit community. The family was so inundated with gifts that they wanted to share them with their neighbors, many of whom were struggling financially. Steve Sobolewski, the head of the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad, saw this as an opportunity to create a community event that has grown to become a legendary holiday tradition in Wheaton.

Santa will arrive at 11504 Amherst Avenue, Wheaton, 20902. For exact arrival time, call 443-326-5474.

Montgomery Housing Partnership's mission is to preserve and expand affordable housing in Montgomery County. MHP manages owns over 1,000 units of housing for low to moderate income families.

