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Foothill Family Clients Find a Spring in their Step this Holiday Season

PASADENA, Calif. – Foothill Family clients felt a holiday spring in their step thanks to a generous donation by a group of employees from Southern California Edison (SCE) and Shoes That Fit. Brand new pairs of shoes and goodie bags were distributed to 50 families at the Foothill Family El Monte Center on December 22, 2015. This is the first time employees from SCE have partnered with Shoes That Fit to organize a shoe drive for Foothill Family.

“We are grateful to Southern California Edison’s employees and Shoes That Fit for choosing Foothill Family as a recipient of their donations,” said Steve Allen, Foothill Family chief executive officer. “Collaborating with corporate partners to further support our clients is just one of the many ways in which we can help families – and communities – to thrive.”

Many of Foothill Family’s client families come from underserved populations that experience extreme stressors, such as poverty, community or family violence, and job loss, which negatively impact individual and family well-being and exacerbate mental health issues and emotional trauma. Ninety one percent of the children who receive Foothill Family’s clinical services are from poverty level or low income families.

“I am a single mother of three children and I am unable to purchase new pairs of shoes for my family every year,” said one of the client recipients. “I am so grateful to Foothill Family for the many ways that they have helped us – these shoes are the icing on the cake.”

“Each child received a pair of shoes and other gifts picked out especially for them by our employees,” said Don Neal, director of corporate environmental services for SCE and the executive sponsor of the SCE personnel who donated the gifts. “It’s satisfying to do something that gives kids an immediate sense of pride while sparing them the embarrassment of having to go to school in worn out shoes.”

Since 1992, Shoes That Fit volunteers have delivered more than a million pairs of new shoes and other items to more than 90,000 children in need at more than 2,000 schools and organizations across the country. Shoes That Fit matches sponsoring groups with organizations that help children in need. The organization aims to improve the self-esteem of children by providing them with much-needed shoes to attend school in comfort and with dignity, allowing them to focus on their studies rather than their circumstances.

Foothill Family was founded in 1926 and provides a range of community-based mental health and social services to at-risk populations in Southern California. Its mission, to build brighter futures for children and families, has helped Foothill Family earn a reputation for providing high-quality services aimed at empowering families and strengthening communities. Programs include mental health and school-based counseling for children, child abuse prevention and treatment, domestic violence prevention and treatment, early child development programs, services for pregnant teens and their babies, family counseling, and youth development. Last year, more than 23,000 children and their families benefited from Foothill Family’s life-changing programs. For more information, please call (626) 993-3000 or visit the website at www.foothillfamily.org.

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