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**PMI-OC JOINS ORANGE COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS IN
ANNUAL HOLIDAY SPARK OF LOVE TOY DRIVE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...Dec. XX, 2011...COSTA MESA, Calif....The Orange County Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI), the world's largest project management member association, is pleased to announce that it is once again partnering with the Costa Mesa Fire Department for the annual holiday Spark of Love toy drive. For more than 10 years, PMI OC has supported the campaign by donating \$1,000 in conjunction with unwrapped toys and gifts provided by members. Toy donations will be collected at PMI-OC's December dinner meeting, set for Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011.

The Spark of Love toy drive collects new, unwrapped toys, books, and sports equipment for children from infancy to age 17. It is part of the Orange County Toy Collaborative, which combines the Spark of Love effort with the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program, the Orange County Social Service Agency's Operation Santa Claus program, and the St. Vincent de Paul holiday charities program. Collectively, these campaigns receive and distribute more than 300,000 toys annually for needy children and families throughout Orange County.

Stephen June, PMP and president of the PMI Orange County Chapter, said the group is excited to again partner with the Costa Mesa Fire Department on the annual Spark of Love toy drive. "The holiday season is upon us, and with it comes the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life," June said. "Even in the best of years, what is supposed to be a season of joy is not for the thousands of kids who wake up Christmas morning without a toy. Our members are excited to bring smiles to the faces of those less fortunate children in Orange County."

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Costa Mesa Interim Fire Chief Tom Arnold said the department looks forward each year to working with community-minded organizations. “We appreciate the support of PMI-OC and their generous donations to the OC Toy Collaborative and the children of Orange County. Every fire station in the Orange County is accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys for all ages through December 24.”

In addition to the toy drive, the PMI-OC December meeting will feature the Marine Robotics Team from Long Beach City College demonstrating its entries into the ROV (remotely operated vehicle) competition sponsored by Marine Advanced Technology Education. This team, mentored and supported by Scott Fraser, department chair in electrical technology, has had great success in the past and is a serious competitor for the Gold Medal in the upcoming competition. Members gain valuable hands on experience, leading to internships and job opportunities.

The PMI-OC inner meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Wyndham Orange County Hotel, 3350 Avenue of the Arts, Costa Mesa. Additional information and online registration are available at www.pmi-oc.org. Anyone interested in contributing unwrapped toys, books, and sports equipment to the Spark of Love toy drive, should contact PMI OC at [add phone or email here].

About Project Management Institute (PMI)

PMI is the world’s largest project management member association, representing more than half a million practitioners in more than 185 countries. As a global thought leader and knowledge resource, PMI advances the profession through global standards and credentials, collaborative chapters, virtual communities, and academic research. The Orange County chapter was founded in 1989. It focuses on professional development and networking opportunities and serves more than 1,700 members.

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