



**For Immediate Release:
November 1, 2016**

Contact: Denise Perrin | Community Relations Manager
City of Rowlett | 4000 Main St., 75088 or P.O. Box 99 | Rowlett, TX 75030-0099
972.412.6192 | dperrin@rowlett.com

***Ho-Ho-Ho Holiday Relief Holiday Decoration Drive for
Tornado-Impacted Residents***

ROWLETT, TX – On December 26, 2015, an EF4 tornado hit Rowlett, Garland and Sunnyvale, impacting over 1,700 homes and businesses. 1,145 of those were in Rowlett. While the recovery process in these communities is in motion, the needs are still many. Some have only recently moved back home, with more hoping to make this move before the end of the year.

Tornado survivor Jim Holt works year-round as a “Christmas Man” for lighting supplier, 1000bulbs.com, based in Garland. One of those just recently back in his home after a 70 percent rebuild, Jim realized that most of those touched by the storm lost much of what they had, including holiday lights and decorations. Although after months of relocation, many affected residents are back in their homes, thoughts of the upcoming holiday season may not be merry and bright. The Christmas Man is not OK with this. After persuading his suppliers to donate last year’s leftover items or those not in lots big enough to sell to the stores, Jim’s boss agreed to pay for all incoming freight from those donations and the Ho-Ho-Ho Holiday Relief ball was rolling!

After starting a Facebook page to identify those in need of these lights and decorations, so many others expressed a desire to help that Jim and his volunteers are now welcoming the public to share in this effort. The Ho-Ho-Ho Holiday Relief volunteers want to provide tornado-impacted families with everything they need to LIGHT UP the holiday and make their neighborhoods festive again.

Desired items include new outdoor lights and decorations, Christmas Trees, greenery, ornaments, wreaths, stockings and other décor to help brighten the holiday season. Gift card donations are welcome as well, volunteers will shop for the items to donate!

Donation Locations and Times

Church in the City Relief Center
6005 Dalrock, Rowlett (corner of Dalrock and Hwy 66)
Tues/Wed/Thurs: 2:00-7:00pm

Tornado Relief Center
4813 Rowlett Rd., Rowlett
Tues: 5-7pm, Sat: Noon-2:00pm

Sharing Life Community Center (next to Lakepointe Church in Mesquite)
3544 E Emporium Circle, Mesquite
M/T/W/F: 9am-5pm, Thurs: 9am-7pm, and Sat: 9am-Noon

Please mail gift card donations to:
Rowlett Strong
PO Box 1375
Rowlett, TX 75030

Donated Items Distribution Dates and Locations

Donations will only be distributed to those whose homes were impacted by the storm.
Recipients will be asked to provide Red Cross forms or a driver license showing the home address.

Saturday, November 19: 10am-2pm
Church in the City Relief Center
6005 Dalrock, Rowlett (corner of Dalrock and Hwy 66)

Saturday, November 19: 9-11am
Joseph's House
6310 Lyons Rd, Garland (next to Living Hope Baptist Church)

Tuesday, November 15: 9am-5pm
Sharing Life Community Center (next to Lakepointe Church in Mesquite)
3544 E Emporium Circle, Mesquite

For more information or to request an interview with Jim Holt, please visit the [Ho-Ho-Ho Holiday Relief Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/Ho-Ho-Ho-Holiday-Relief-2016-187897854982660) (https://www.facebook.com/Ho-Ho-Ho-Holiday-Relief-2016-187897854982660) or email hohoho.holiday.relief@gmail.com.

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