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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Nov. 5, 2009

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**GRIZ PLAYERS ASK FANS TO DONATE TOYS AT NOV. 14 GAME**

**MISSOULA —**

Help cheer up local children while cheering on the Montana Grizzlies football team during the fifth annual Griz for Kids Toy Drive on Saturday, Nov. 14, at The University of Montana.

Fans can drop off new, unwrapped toys at all entrances to Washington-Grizzly Stadium before the Griz game against Northern Colorado. Those unable to attend the game can make cash donations at all Missoula Federal Credit Union locations starting Friday, Nov. 6.

Former Griz defensive end Mike Stadnyk led last year's toy drive, which brought in hundreds of toys for children in need during the holiday season. This year, senior wide receiver Marc Mariani and senior offensive tackle Levi Horn are leading the effort.

"The holiday season is a time for giving and generosity," Mariani said. "Griz football gets so much support from the community, and I'm honored to get the word out about an event that brings so much joy to many families in our community."

Mariani and Horn said they hope to collect more Griz for Kids donations than ever before, especially in a year when difficult economic times are likely hurting more families.

"My whole life I have personally been affected by these toy drives," Horn said. "I have seen the happiness they bring because my mother volunteered for the local toy drives in

Spokane. The Griz are asking the best fans in football to help support our community and help those in need this holiday season.”

Toys will go to Mountain Home Montana, Head Start, Early Head Start, the Missoula Indian Center, Youth Homes Inc., Watson Children’s Shelter, Big Brothers Big Sisters, WORD, Futures and Teen Challenge.

Sponsors of the event include UM and the Montana Grizzlies in partnership with Mountain Broadcasting, Max Media, ABC 23 and Missoula Federal Credit Union. The event is held in conjunction with 102.5 Mountain FM’s Mountain of Giving Toy Drive.

For more information, call University Relations at 406-243-4853.

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