MAYOR
James Dodge

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PROCLAMATION
Community Organization of the Month
May 2026
Toy Box Connection

WHEREAS, the Village of Orland Park recognizes and commends those outstanding nonprofit organizations that work tirelessly to improve the lives of children and families in our community and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, Toy Box Connection Children's Charity is an Illinois 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in and headquartered in Orland Park, with a mission to serve as the vital link between those who have toys, books, and resources to donate and the children who need them most; and

WHEREAS, Toy Box Connection operates on the belief that need has no season, providing toys, books, games, and days of fun to children throughout the entire year, connecting families and businesses' generous donations directly to children in need across the Southland and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the organization partners with a remarkable breadth of nonprofits and agencies to reach children facing the most challenging circumstances, including pediatric hospice patients, children with cancer, foster children, burn survivors, children with disabilities, victims of disasters, and families experiencing homelessness and poverty; and

WHEREAS, Toy Box Connection's reach extends to Illinois low-income schools, Ronald McDonald Houses, Easter Seals, Big Shoulders, Camp Quality, the Women's Crisis Center, St. Jude Children's Hospital, and dozens of other vital organizations, demonstrating that its impact stretches far beyond a single community; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its year-round toy and book distribution efforts, Toy Box Connection creates "days of fun" for children in need and hosts community events including its annual Be Kind to Your Mind Mental Health & Wellness Fair, reflecting a commitment to the whole child and whole community; and

WHEREAS, the organization relies on the generosity of volunteers, local businesses, and community partners, including the Orland Park Fire Department and local corporate sponsors, whose support enables Toy Box Connection to raise the bar each year for the children it serves; and

WHEREAS, Toy Box Connection embodies the spirit and values of Orland Park through its compassion, resourcefulness, and unwavering dedication to ensuring that every child can experience the joy of a toy, the wonder of a book, and a day of fun.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Dodge, Mayor of the Village of Orland Park, Illinois, in the Counties of Cook and Will, along with the Board of Trustees, do hereby officially recognize and honor **Toy Box Connection** for its creativity, compassion, and lasting impact on the children and families of Orland Park and the surrounding communities, and hereby proclaim Toy Box Connection as the May 2026 Community Organization of the Month in the Village of Orland Park.

Dated this 4th day of May, 2026.

James Dodge
Mayor

Mary Ryan Norwell
Village Clerk