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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**TEXANS WHITNEY MERCILUS TRADES HELMET FOR BAKER'S CAP**  
***-The WithMerci Foundation Partners with Small Steps for Season of Giving-***

HOUSTON, TX – The WithMerci Foundation prides itself on supporting child advocacy programs servicing the special needs population and this holiday season they have partnered with Small Steps Nurturing Center to spread good tidings! **Houston Texans linebacker, Whitney Mercilus, will be on hand at Small Steps to decorate gingerbread houses with the students and their parents on Thursday, December 21, 2017 from 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. located at 2902 Jensen Drive Houston, Texas 77026.** Additionally, Mercilus and the WithMerci Foundation will be delivering toys to the students from their annual holiday toy drive. **To contribute to the toy drive, please drop off new unwrapped toys to one of the designated toy boxes throughout the city: One Fifth Houston (1658 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77006), Momentum BMW (10002 Southwest Fwy, Houston, TX 77074), Empire Barber Studio (4205 Little York Rd Suite 200, Houston, TX 77093) and Bank of Texas (3009 Post Oak Blvd Suite 1300, Houston, TX 77056).**

*“I was raised to believe that it is always a blessing to be a blessing and during the holiday season it is even more evident. You never know how your single act of kindness can impact the outcome of someone’s day or even their lives. Working with children is something near and dear to my heart, so any chance I get to make a difference in their lives individually or through the works of my foundation, I embrace every opportunity”,* said Mercilus.

Aligned with the spiritual and family values instilled in Mercilus at an early age, Small Steps Nurturing Center is the perfect partnership for Mercilus and the WithMerci Foundation during this season of giving. Small Steps aims to provide a state of the art early childhood education program geared towards fostering psychosocial welfare, developing emotional and physical stability, stimulating intellect and cultivating the spiritual growth of economically at-risk children and their families. Although the core of Small Steps is academically driven and the WithMerci Foundation focuses on support and advocacy, the mission of both organizations are intertwined; ministering to and developing the whole person, reaching beyond the child and impacting the culture of the family.

For more information about The WithMerci Foundation, please visit [www.withmerci.org](http://www.withmerci.org). You can connect with the foundation on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @withmerci.

**WithMerci Foundation Vision** - Start WithMerci by believing in and advocating for children around the world with disabilities and special needs. Live WithMerci through services and support that ensure children with disabilities feel included through all aspects of life. Work WithMerci through special sporting events and by providing education to individuals. Give WithMerci through financial support.

*WithMerci Foundation, Inc. (“WithMerci”) is a Texas nonprofit corporation operating through a fiscal sponsorship with Players’ Philanthropy Fund (Federal Tax ID: 27-6601178), a Maryland nonprofit corporation recognized by*

*the IRS with federal tax-exempt status as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3). Contributions to WithMervi are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

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