# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020

"bringing the joy of Christmas to less fortunate children nationwide"

### President & CEO's Report



I was handed the Colors of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation from a dear friend and mentor on 1 January 2020. This Foundation has been blessed to have one of our Nation's most respected Marine leaders, Lieutenant General Pete Osman, at the helm for 12 wonderful years providing inspirational leadership to the Officers, Directors, the staff members and literally thousands of Marines and civilian

FOR TOTS

volunteers who all work tirelessly to provide hope to millions of less fortunate children across our country.

Over this past year as the Executive Vice President, I was taken aback to learn of and see the levels of poverty affecting our Nation's children. Approximately 1 in 5 children live below the poverty level equating to almost 15 million children across our Nation. The good news is that our sound programs and practices put into place by Lieutenant General Osman were able to meet much of the Nation's demand signal. With the tremendous support of our Corporate Sponsors and the generous support of the American public, Toys for Tots was able to distribute 18.6 million toys and books and put smiles on the faces of over 7.3 million less fortunate children.

Of course, the backbone of the Toys for Tots Program is our Marines assigned to Marine Forces Reserve, and the thousands of our wonderful civilian volunteers who interact with the public across the Nation to ensure children of economically disadvantaged families have a glimpse of hope. The Marine Corps League was also instrumental in conducting 262 campaigns throughout the Nation. This again is an example of veteran Marines continuing to serve their Nation and communities through service to others.

As with last year, the demand for toys and books was extremely strong throughout our 2019 Campaign. The individual toy donations remained strong, and our long-term Gift in Kind (GIK) Corporate Sponsors responded to the heavy demand. The campaign turned out to be extremely rewarding as the American public and our Corporate Sponsors once again rallied behind the program. Several records were set in monetary donations, and our total revenue of over \$60.5 million was one of our best years on record. We also maintained a charity-enviable Program to Support service expense ratio of 96 to 4 in 2019. That means that most of every dollar donated went to our mission of providing gifts to less fortunate children. Not a single cent went to pay for salaries of Foundation employees.

The Foundation supplemented local toy and book collections with over 6.8 million toys valued at \$67 million. Because of the increase in demand, the Foundation spent \$7 million more on toys than we had budgeted. This was all made possible by the Foundation's successful campaign in terms of fundraising. Our 2019 Campaign fundraising numbers were as follows: The Direct Mail Campaign raised \$26.4 million; Corporate Sponsor monetary and GIK contributions totaled nearly \$41 million; website donations totaled \$7.4 million; and unsolicited donations were \$16.6 million. Each of these amounts exceeded our highest expectations, and in most cases, established all-time highs for those categories.

Toys for Tots was blessed once again in 2019 by having the support of our First Lady, Melania Trump, as our number one volunteer. Mrs. Trump's support was instrumental in helping us broadcast our message to the American public. Her very kind and loving support at our local warehouse at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C. was extremely powerful. Mrs. Trump knows firsthand that Marines not only serve our country in trouble spots around the world, they and our civilian volunteers are also making a difference in our towns and cities by bringing hope to less fortunate children.

Another key factor in our successes this year was the generous exposure and public service announcements we received. In our quest to maximize our exposure, the Foundation continued two very successful initiatives, the Hollywood Christmas Parade benefiting Toys for Tots with tons of media and celebrity support, and the ringing of the Opening Bell at the New York Stock Exchange. We were all honored that Lieutenant General Pete Osman rang the Opening Bell this year concluding his extremely successful career as the President and CEO of Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. His exemplary leadership laid the groundwork for the Foundation to reach even more children in the years to come.

### **New CEO Priorities**

As LtGen Laster steps in as the President & CEO of Marine Toys for Tots, he is eager to expand the Foundation's Network. Expanding the Marine Toys for Tots Network includes:

- Expand social media operations/ marketing with inspirational content
- Increase partnerships/ develop relationships with other non-profits
- Strengthen relationship with the Marine Corps League
- Initiate volunteer program with private/ state military schools, JROTC, ROTC, etc.
- Initiate outreach to Marine Corps senior leadership to inform and garner support

- Explore opportunities to assist less fortunate children beyond Christmas
- Expand the Literacy Program
- Identify gaps and seams in our campaign coverage across the Nation and develop a strategy to cover these areas



## 2019 Success and Passing of the Colors at Toys For Tots

The Marine Toys for Tots Program distributed 18.6 million toys to 7.3 million less fortunate children during the 2019 Christmas Holiday Season. Many thanks to the hard work of our Marines and Volunteers who made it happen, the generosity of the American public, and the incredible support from our Corporate Partners. We would also like to thank the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation Board of Directors for their leadership and guidance that ensured the Toys for Tots Program was positioned to successfully support millions of economically disadvantaged children. After twelve years serving as the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation President & CEO, Lieutenant General Pete Osman stepped down to enjoy retired life. General Osman's commitment and sterling leadership for these past 12 years has maintained Toys for Tots as America's premier Christmas charity bringing the joy of Christmas to millions of childrenin-need. Fair Winds and Following Seas!

As we say goodbye to General Osman, we welcome Lieutenant General Jim Laster as our new President & CEO. Gen Laster is already hard at work implementing plans for the 2020 Holiday Season. For more information about Toys for Tots and our Board of Directors, please visit www.toysfortots.org.



### 2019 Campaign Re-cap

The 2019 U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign was another extremely successful endeavor in the 72-year history of Toys for Tots. Local campaigns were conducted in 807 local communities covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The local campaigns,



made up of Marines, Sailors, and volunteers, distributed 18.6 million toys to over 7.3 million less fortunate children.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, the fundraising and support organization for the Marine Toys for Tots Program, supplemented the collections of local Toys for Tots Campaigns with 6.8 million

> toys valued at almost \$67 million. The Foundation also provided local campaigns with promotion and support materials valued at over \$1,100,000.

> From 1947 through 2019, Marines, Sailors, and their volunteers have distributed 584 million toys to 265 million less fortunate children. From 1991 through 2019, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation has supplemented local collections with 143 million toys valued at \$1.16 billion.

> 2019: local campaigns conducted in 807 communities covering 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam

### Accomplishments

- Supplemented local Toys for Tots campaigns with 6.8 million toys valued at \$67 million
- Distributed 1.4 million children's books through the Toys for Tots Literacy Program
- Distributed nearly 500,000 toys to over 180,000 Native American children in 60 Reservations/ Tribal Groups
- Provided promotion and support materials to 807 local Toys for Tots Campaigns valued at over \$1 million
- With a record 807 Local Campaigns, distributed 18.6 million toys to 7.3 million less fortunate children.
- Continued to grow the Toys for Tots Literacy Program in concert with The UPS Store in order to provide books and educational materials to economically disadvantaged youngsters and schools in depressed areas.

### Program to Support Services Expense Ratio

The Foundation achieved a 96:04 ratio of Program to Support services expenses in 2019. This means that 96 cents of every dollar spent in 2019 went to program services and only 4 cents to fundraising, administrative, and overhead costs. It's important for donors to realize that not one donated dollar goes to pay anyone's salary. The interest and dividends from a special endowment fund pay all manpower costs.



### Toys for Tots Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

The 2020 season started early at Toys for Tots due to COVID-19 and the impact it has had on families and children across the country. In effort with Good360, Group Sales, other nonprofit partners, and the generosity of our supporters, Toys for Tots was able to expand our network outside of the holiday season.

#### **TOGETHER** We Can Achieve More!

Toys for Tots and Good360 brought Christmas joy to children across the United States a bit earlier this year. COVID-19 has caused tremendous upheaval and distress these past few months for many families across the nation; jobs were lost, the economy turned upside down, and children were taken out of school. Our Marines learn to adapt and overcome obstacles to better serve our country, and Toys for Tots wanted to follow suit. "This is the first time we [Toys for Tots] have done something of this magnitude beyond Christmas," said LtGen Jim Laster, President and CEO of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.

Marine Toys for Tots is committed to being here for every family that has fallen on difficult times. This toy shipment and distribution was a combined effort – it takes teamwork to make things possible. Our warehouse partner, Group Sales, was instrumental in providing the logistics behind the shipment of 2 million toys stored in their warehouse. Preparing the toys for shipment included building and loading 35 truckloads of toys for all age groups. Group Sales donated their warehouse space, their staff and labor, and even donated the shipping costs for this massive effort. These toys were then shipped to Good360





to be distributed through their network of vetted nonprofits across the country. "This partnership gave both Good360 and Toys for Tots the opportunity to increase the scope and breadth of our network," said LtGen Laster in an interview with Good360's Chief Executive Officer, Matt Connelly.

The two million toys, books, and games that Toys for Tots provided were sent to over 200 of Good360's nonprofit partner organizations across 36 states. Nonprofits that received these toys included Regional United Ways, Boys and Girls Clubs, YWCAs, Girl Scouts, Local Parent Teacher Associations, cancer-related organizations, National nonprofits, and general community-based organizations that serve families and children. Chief Executive Officer of Good360, Matt Connelly, spoke about the distribution processes stating that, "Good360 tried to get the best geographic footprint as possible for the distribution of toys and leverage what we call our Community Distribution Partners (CDPs). CDPs are larger nonprofits that can handle full truckloads of goods, to distribute the toys to their network, which includes other nonprofits."







KOLD News 13 reported that one of the first locations to receive donated toys was a community warehouse for Gap Ministries in Tucson, AZ. The goal of the volunteers working this distribution was to get 4,000 toys to children in Southern Arizona's foster care system by the end of April. The volunteers were hopeful "that these toys, books, and games would combat boredom, relieve anxiety, help create a sense of normalcy, and act as an educational resource." A foster parent stated, "For our workers to be able to come and get these toys, to go shopping specifically for our families and bring the things that are going to make our kids happy, it makes us feel like we're not forgotten. We feel loved and appreciated."

Toys for Tots has been asked many questions regarding our response to COVID-19 and families affected by the pandemic. The question asked most frequently has been, "How was Toys for Tots able to distribute 2 million toys now?" LtGen Laster answered that question in a Fox 4 News interview, "We decided to take our current inventory that we were saving for this Christmas and distribute them to less fortunate children to lessen the anxiety, give them hope and bring a smile to their face during this crisis."



As we look forward to our Christmas season, we know that more families than ever will need our support, possibly in areas that don't have a campaign coordinator. "There may still be a lot of work to do here with Good360 this Christmas," said LtGen Laster, "there is hope to continue our partnership with Good360 so we can get individuals connected with other nonprofits in areas that aren't covered." This partnership generated greater impact. Together, we were able to "do more good" and spread some early Christmas cheer.

#### Providing Assistance AND Hope!

Heart Response Team, a Good360 nonprofit partner, distributed toys, books, and games provided by Toys for Tots. The toys were provided in conjunction with a food distribution event in Lakeville, MN to assist families impacted by COVID-19.





#### Gift Bags Provide a Sense of Normalcy for Celebrations

Many nonprofit organizations came together to provide assistance to the less fortunate during the COVID-19 crisis. Social Health and Medical Service Clinic (SHAMS Clinic) is a nonprofit organization that strives to improve the health and social well-being of underserved communities in Philadelphia. SHAMS Clinic partnered with the Islamic Center of North America Relief (ICNA Relief), which specializes in providing assistance following a national disaster and to underprivileged individuals.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected events and celebrations across the country, including religious holidays. Eid al-Fitr, or "Festival of Breaking the Fast", is a religious holiday celebrated by Muslims that marks the conclusion of Ramadan, and it is custom for adults to give children presents as part of the celebrations. However, due to COVID-19, many families were not able to practice Eid al-Fitr traditions, but SHAMS Clinic and the ICNA wanted to help. The SHAMS Clinic, along with the ICNA, prepared and distributed 100 gift bags filled with toys, donated by the Toys for Tots and Good360 partnership, to children from low-income families in celebration of the Festival. This gave Muslim families and children in these underserved Philadelphia communities a sense of normalcy during the pandemic.



#### The Mission Centers of Houston Makes Local Children Feel Extra Special

The Mission Centers of Houston, TX focuses on the eradication of the effects caused by multigenerational poverty and homelessness of individuals living in the inner city of Houston. Assistance is provided through food security, homeless assistance, age-graded educational and recreational programs, spiritual development, coordination of long-term disaster recovery services, and community development initiatives.



Thanks to a toy donation from Toys for Tots, and with the help of Good360, the Mission Centers of Houston made children of local families feel extra special during a recent distribution. While their parents received groceries, the children were given a brand-new toy! Some children in the Kid's Club program were even able to select a brand-new toy when the activity reopened at the beginning of the summer.

One little girl felt like royalty with her pick! This 5-year-old girl received a princess jewelry kit, and she could not wait to dress in her new accessories. In an email sent to the Mission Centers of Houston, the little girl's mom mentioned how excited her daughter was and the little girl said, "look mommy, I am a princess!



### Toys for Tots Expands Its Literacy Program

Each year, Toys for Tots distributes an average of 18 million toys to 7 million less fortunate children during the holidays with the principal goal of delivering a message of hope that will inspire youngsters to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens.

Best known as a Christmastime charity, Toys for Tots also provides assistance outside of the holidays. One of the programs employed throughout the year is the Toys for Tots Literacy Program. Sadly, nearly 1 in 4 children in the U.S. grow up without learning to read – creating a learning differential that perpetuates a continuous cycle of poverty. While distributing toys to underprivileged children in over 800 communities each year, we discovered the largest barrier to childhood literacy was access to books. So, in 2008 Toys for Tots partnered with The





UPS Store to create the Toys for Tots Literacy Program, and together distribute an average of 1.5 million books each year.

The Toys for Tots Literacy Program offers our Nation's most economically disadvantaged children direct access to books and educational resources to enhance their ability to read. This program not only brings the joy of reading to these children, but also serves as an important tool in breaking the cycle of poverty.

In 2020, schools across the country were forced to close their doors early due to the Coronavirus exacerbating the ability of children to read at grade level. Many schools continued their school lunch program by bussing lunches to children in their homes in low income communities. Toys for Tots reached out to many of these Title I funded schools and provided books that were delivered to over 120,000 children in April and May. Toys for Tots, through our Literacy Program, stands ready to support hard hit communities throughout the year by providing books to less fortunate children to help achieve educational parity.

Since the Toys for Tots Literacy Program launched in 2008, The UPS Store network has raised and donated millions of dollars to purchase books for children in need. As a result, the Toys for Tots Literacy Program has distributed nearly 42 million books to children across the United States.







#### Literacy Facts & Figures:

- It is estimated that the cost of illiteracy to business and taxpayers is \$20 billion per year. (United Way, "Illiteracy: A National Crisis")
- 1 in 4 children in America grow up without learning how to read. WriteExpress Corporation. "Literacy Statistics." Begin to Read. Accessed April 16, 2014.



- Children who aren't reading at grade level by the end of third grade are four times as likely to drop out of high school. Donald J. Hernandez, Double Jeopardy: How Third-Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation. The Annie E. Casey Foundation; Center
- There are an estimated 15 million children in the U.S. living below the federal poverty threshold. National Center for Children in Poverty
- In low-income neighborhoods, the ratio of books per child is 1 age-appropriate book for every 300 children. Neuman, Susan B. and David K. Dickinson, ed. Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Volume 2. New York, NY: 2006, p. 31
- "Access to books and educational material is the single biggest barrier to literacy development in the United States. If we can solve the problem of access, we will be well on the road to realizing educational parity..." Susan B. Neuman, Ph.D. University of Michigan, Center for Improvement of Early Reading Achievement

### Delivering Lunches, Books, and Smiless

The Tifton Georgia Toys for Tots campaign partnered with a local school bus driver to deliver books to children in Ben Hill County during a lunch delivery. Ben Hill County has a high poverty level and sadly, there are not always a lot of books available to these children. As you can see by the smiles on their faces, the children were thrilled to receive the surprise books!







### Students of Stanly County Receive Books with Meals

Students in the Stanly County, North Carolina area received books with their meals, thanks to a donation from Toys for Tots. Over 1,000 books were distributed at school sites, including Albemarle Middle, Badin Elementary, South Stanly Middle, and Stanfield Elementary. This story was covered by the Stanly News & Press.

Debbie Pressley, Assistant Coordinator for Stanly County Toys for Tots, stated that "most of the books were geared towards elementary and middle school students. These books were donated by the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation and were sent to Stanly County Partnership for Children, who then distributed them to Stanly County Schools."

During a regular year, Toys for Tots campaigns run from October through December. "This year, with the current situation of children out of school and staying home, Toys for Tots offered an opportunity for campaigns to receive books to be distributed through lunch programs so that children would have a book to read at home," Pressley said, "1,000 books through the program, along with 200 books donated locally, have been given to Stanly County Schools to distribute."

Superintendent, Dr. Jeff James, also commented on the book distribution. "Encouraging children to read is one of the most

important gifts we can give," said Dr. James, "reading is the foundation of getting a great education. We appreciate the donation and hope our students enjoy the books we distribute."

Stanly County Marine Corps League Detachment #1021 started the first toy collection and distribution campaign in 2005, said Pressley. The toys that are purchased through the Toys for Tots Foundation are collected and delivered locally to Stanly Community Christian Ministry, West Stanly Christian Ministries, and Community Coalition for Christ who distribute to the families. In 2019, 5,696 toys were distributed to 1,519 children in Stanly County at Christmas.



#### A Surprise Delivery for Kids on Bus Route

Brooke Johnson, a third-grade teacher in Kenowa Hills, Michigan had been collecting used books for students at Alpine Elementary, since they cannot be at school or go to libraries due to COVID-19. We thought what she was doing was amazing and we wanted to help, so we donated 800 new books for her to give to the children!



### 2019 Marine National Coordinator of the Year



#### SSgt Robert Bacchus – Brooklyn, NY

Staff Sergeant Bacchus flawlessly planned and executed a Marine Toys for Tots campaign in the greater New York City area with over 8,143,240 people. His dedication to the Marine Toys for Tots Program and leadership acumen made it possible for 127,797 less fortunate children to receive 137,399 toys. The Marine Toys for Tots campaign is thriving in Brooklyn, New York and forms the cornerstone of 6th Communications Battalion community outreach efforts.

Through his effective organizational skills and personnel management, infectious positive attitude, and inter-personnel skills, Staff Sergeant Bacchus was instrumental to the successful execution of the 2019 Toys for Tots Campaign in Brooklyn New York, while concurrently maintaining exemplary performance within his primary responsibilities as the Battalion's Data Systems Chief which consists of assisting in the planning, installation, operation, troubleshooting, and maintenance of tactical and site local area networks. His duties include advising and instructing the Selected Marine Corps Reserve Marines on proper employment, operation, troubleshooting, and maintenance of organic communications systems. His responsibilities are vast, he maintains accurate accountability of the unit's cyber network equipment, and he evaluates the performance, duties, trains, and counsels all 0671 and 0679 Marines within the 6th Communications Battalion.

The quantitative numbers from the 2019 Toys for Tots campaign only provide one aspect of Staff Sergeant Bacchus's performance during this period. His success in the primary duties described above is another aspect that warrants extra attention as one understands the complicated personnel management requirements to meet all mission tasks and support the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. Staff Sergeant Bacchus embraced the Marine Toys for Tots mission and his responsibilities from the very beginning. He personalized the program through his positive attitude, his willingness to go the extra mile to help others, and the hours he personally dedicated in the evenings and on the weekends. Staff Sergeant Bacchus never lost sight that this Program's aim is to unite all members of the local community in a common cause and the development of our less fortunate youth to assist them in becoming responsible, productive, and patriotic citizens. The Marines that Staff Sergeant Bacchus led in support of this campaign season never lost sight of that either.

Through his leadership, direction, and investment in the 2019 Toys for Tots campaign, Staff Sergeant Bacchus ensured the less fortunate children of the community enjoyed a better holiday through community action. Staff Sergeant Bacchus's contributions to the U.S. Marine Corps, the Marine Toys for Tots Program, and the children of New York City make him exceptionally qualified to receive the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

### 2019 National LCO of the Year



#### Howard Mears – Helena MT

The Helena MT campaign distributed more than 13,000 toys to more than 2,000 less fortunate children in six counties of Helena.

Since taking over the Helena Campaign in 2014, Mr. Mears has led and nurtured the steady growth of the campaign.

He also coordinates the Toys for Tots Native American Program in Montana supporting the following tribes – Little Shell Tribe, Chippewa Cree Tribe, Northern Cheyenne, Assiniboine and Sioux, Aaniih (Gros Ventre) and reservations: Nakoda (Assiniboine), Salish-Kootenai, Crow, and Blackfeet. Last year, he distributed more than 87,000 toys to over 22,000 children on the reservations.

Mr. Mears started the "Mow Your Weeds for Donations" fundraiser in 2016. Howard spends countless hours mowing fields in Helena and all he asks for in return is a donation of any amount to Toys for Tots. His first year he collected \$600. In 2019 the donations grew to over \$6000.

A diligent worker, Mr. Mears is committed to the accurate and timely completion of all administrative requirements of a national charity, and was willing to work with other Toys for Tots Coordinators to not only share information and ideas, but to assist others in becoming more effective and efficient campaign coordinators.

Mr. Mears began coordinating the Helena Toys for Tots Campaign in 2014 and over the years has ensured that the Marine Toys for Tots Program has become a well-known community action effort throughout Helena, MT.

# 2019 Regional Award Winners

### Regional Award winners are:

#### **Reserve Sites**

- GySgt John Sardine Garden City, NY
- Sgt Karos Reinhold Raleigh, NC
- GySgt Patrick Heffernan New Orleans, LA
- SSgt Daniel Looney Milwaukee, WI
- GySgt Jesus Leza Omaha, NE
- Sgt Taylor Giberson Boise, ID

#### LCO's

- Kevin Miller Milford Square, PA
- Vivian Meletis Mooresville, NC
- LaRue Hardinger Fort Payne, AL
- Melissa Barnes Columbia, MO
- Dale Marsh Claremore, OK
- Robert Harlan Yuba City, CA



### **Board Welcomes New Directors**



### David J. Doolan

Dave recently retired as a Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve where he served as an Infantry Officer in a variety of staff assignments, and as a Commander of infantry units. Dave has extensive operational experience throughout Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe, and Afghanistan. Dave is currently Senior Manager, Global Delivery of Cisco Systems. He has also worked in engineering and product management, and communications technologies. During 2006-2008, Dave served as the Program Manager for Cisco Business Development, Tactical Operations Group and was responsible for the operational planning and deployment of teams in response to global disaster events to establish critical communications. We are fortunate to have his depth of experience and leadership as a Director.



#### Jessica van Dop DeJesus

Jessica recently retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve. Jessica first entered the Marine Corps as an Enlisted Marine serving in 8th Tank Battalion and 1st Marine Corps District in New York. As an Officer, Jessica served as a Telecommunications and Information Systems Officer in a variety of assignments overseas in Southeast Asia, Europe, and Africa. She also completed a combat tour in Bagdad, Iraq in 2006. In civilian life, Jessica established her own company, "The Dining Traveler" where she develops and markets content for a travel and food blog that covers six continents and over 50 destinations. She is also very successful as an Event Planner and Social Media Manager for numerous restaurants. We are fortunate to have someone with both her military and civilian expertise in communications and marketing on our Board of Directors.



\* "The Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program exemplifies the very best of American ideals and caring for those who are less fortunate. Thank you for sharing..."





# 2020 Marine Toys for Tots Foundation Golf Classic

On Monday 27 July, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation kicked off our 2020 Holiday Campaign fundraising effort by

hosting the 25th Annual Marine Toys for Tots Foundation Golf Classic. Co-sponsored by Group Sales and OnTime Toys, the event was held at the Mount Vernon Country Club in Alexandria, VA., and is usually conducted in May.

Marines adapt and overcome challenges that they face, and we, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, had to adapt to the challenges we faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That is why we shifted the date of the tournament to July, and the Mount Vernon Country Club went above and beyond to make sure the tournament could still take place with the restrictions and guidelines in place.

The check-in process took place in a larger area than previous years to help maintain social distancing orders. Also, masks were provided for each golfer, pens were placed on the donation table for each golfer to use and keep, and hand sanitizer was placed around the Club House as well as the golf carts. Taking extra steps outside on the golf course was necessary as well -- the Mount Vernon Country Club installed plexiglass between the seats of each golf cart.

Since 1996, this event has become a premiere Toys for Tots fundraising event for the Foundation. We are particularly grateful and extend our special thanks to the Mount Vernon Country Club, corporations, business partners and participants who helped make our 2020 Marine Toys for Tots Foundation Golf Classic a successful event. The tournament, which began with a shotgun start at 0900, was preceded by a continental breakfast and followed by a luncheon and awards ceremony -- all following social distancing guidelines.

Formatted as a "Best Ball Scramble", team winners were selected based on team low gross scores (The Commandant's Flight) and team low handicapped scores (The President's Flight).

The Commandant's Flight was won by the Young-Sheedy Group and the President's Flight was won by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.





## The Founder and the Logo Creator

The Founder of Toys for Tots was the late Colonel William L. Hendricks, USMCR (Ret). In the middle 1940's, Bill Hendricks was the Director of Public Relations for Warner Brothers Studio and concurrently a Major in the Marine Corps Reserve. In the fall of 1947, Bill, with the assistance of members of his Marine Reserve Unit, collected and distributed toys to needy children of Los Angeles, CA. The first toy was a handmade doll crafted by Bill Hendricks' wife, Diane. Bill Hendricks' pilot project was such a success that the Marine Corps adopted it and expanded it nationwide in 1948. That year, Walt Disney, a close personal friend of Bill Hendricks, designed the first Toys for Tots poster which included a miniature three-car train that was subsequently adopted as the Toys for Tots logo.





### 2020 National Corporate SPONSORS (YTD)

Companies, corporations and individuals which contribute or help raise \$25,000 in cash or over \$100,000 worth of toys in support of the 2020 Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign

- Allstate Foundation
- Amazon
- American Bath Group
- Anne Cox Chambers Foundation
- Ann Williams Group
- Associated Television Int'l
- Avon
- Bluestem Brands
- Bojangle's Restaurants
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Build-A-Bear Workshop
- Catch Creation
- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- Confie Insurance
- Consumer Cellular
- Cotswold Foundation
- Dan Newlin Law Firm
- Dari Mart
- Delta Air Lines
- DGL Group
- Discovery Toys
- Doherty Enterprises- Applebee's
- Dollar General
- Dunkin Donuts
- Duracell
- Endeavor Enterprises
- Everyday Kids
- Fareway Stores
- Federated Auto Parts
- Five Below
- Frito Lay
- Funko
- Fun Services
- Gemini Collectibles
- Group Sales
- GSN Worldwide
- Hallmark
- Hasbro
- HDI Housewares
- Hess
- iTrade Pay

- Jackson National Life Insurance Company
- Jada Toys
- KAI USA
- Learning Express
- LEGO
- Magnolia Advanced Materials
- Merchant Distributors
- Mr. Christmas
- Navy Federal Credit Union
- New England Doll & Novelty
- Oak Foundation, The
- Old Dominion Freight Lines
- Ollie's Bargain Outlet, Inc.
- On Time Toys
- Paizo
- Pep Boys
- Pepsi
- Platinum Equity
- PLS Financial Services, Inc.
- PODS
- Pronto
- Redner's Grocery
- Rhode Island Novelty
- SimplyFun, LLC
- Spin Masters Ltd
- Stater Brothers
- Tabletop Tycoons
- Target
- The UPS Store
- The Walt Disney Company
- T-Mobile
- TOPGOLF
- UPS
- Valpak
- Venable
- Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation
- WestRock
- Wunderman Thompson
- Zenergy Systems

### 2020 National Corporate DONORS (YTD)

Companies, corporations and individuals which contribute or help raise between \$5,000 and \$24,999 in cash or between \$25,000 and \$99,999 worth of toys in support of the 2020 Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign.

- Alcoa
- American Golf Foundation
- AmeriPark
- Apex Parks Group, LLC
- Apple-Metro
- Arcosa, Inc.
- Boeing
- Boston Bruins Foundation
- Celebration Talent
- Cleaner's Supply
- Coastal Sunbelt Produce
- Covelli Enterprises
- Cox Enterprises
- CSIOS Corporation
- Diversified Fall Protection
- Dogma Restaurant Group
- Empire Beauty School
- Fourstar Group
- Frontier Technology Inc
- Holiday Charity Ball
- IDEX Foundation
- IV Labs Inc
- Johanson Transportation Service
- John's Incredible Pizza
- Kid's R Kids

- Klinedinst Attorneys
- Krewe of Cleopatra
- Lily Transportation Corp
- MetLife
- Metropolitan Chicago Synod
- Navy League
- NORAD Santa Tracker
- North Pole Post Office
- Pala Casino Spa Resort
- Parkview MCJROTC
- Pen Company
- Phoenix Rising Group
- QBE
- Schuler Family Foundation, The
- Sci Play
- Shakey's Pizza
- SRP Companies
- St. Paul Federal Credit Union
- Sun Tan City
- The Mead Foundation
- Wagner
- Western-Shamrock
- Wishing Pixies
- With Honor, LLC
- Young Marines

# 2020 National Corporate EVENT SPONSORS

Companies, corporations and individuals which contribute \$5,000 or more in support of the 2020 Marine Toys for Tots Foundation golf tournament and other events.

- Atlanta Capital
- Beretta USA
- Creative Direct Response (CDR)
- Communication in Action (CIA)
- Data Management Inc. (DMI)
- FLEET
- Further
- General Atomic Aeronautical Systems
- Group Sales- 2020 Golf Classic Co- Sponsor
- HDI Housewares
- JH Graceson
- Lindsay Cadillac
- New England Doll and Novelty
- OnTime Toys- 2020 Golf Classic Co- Sponsor
- Stafford Printing
- SY Group at Merrill Lynch/ Bank of America
- The Mazel Company
- TK's Toy Box

### Important TFT Dates – 2020 Campaign

#### 2020

17-18 September	Virtual Coordinator Training
1 October-24 December	Hollywood Christmas Parade (Airing locally at various times throughout December. Be sure to check www.toysfortots.org for local airtimes.)
2021	
15 January	After Action Reports due

## Hail & Farewell of Lieutenant General Pete Osman



Lieutenant General Pete Osman

As stated previously in my report, I was handed the Colors of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation from a dear friend and mentor on 1 January 2020. This Foundation has been blessed to have one of our Nation's most respected Marine leaders, Lieutenant General Pete Osman, at the helm for 12 incredible years providing inspirational leadership to the Officers, Directors, the staff members and literally thousands of Marines and civilian volunteers who all work tirelessly to provide hope to millions of less fortunate children across our country.

Lieutenant General Osman served over 37 years as a Marine infantry officer. His career ranged from serving as an infantry platoon commander in Vietnam to serving as the Commanding General of II Marine Expeditionary Force and Commander of a Joint Task Force in Northern Iraq. His staff assignments included duty with NATO, Director of Joint Force Development and Operational War Plans on the Joint Staff, and Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps for Manpower & Reserve Affairs. General Osman retired from active duty in October 2006. In November 2019, the Directors hosted a farewell dinner for Lieutenant General and Mrs. Pete Osman. Pete and his lovely wife, Laura, were recognized for their faithful service and dedication to the Marine Corps' premier community action program. Under his steady leadership, the Foundation maintained an enviable 97 to 3 "program to support ratio" that has been recognized by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Wise Giving Alliance for the past decade.

During Pete's tenure, the Marine Toys for Tots Program distributed over 207 million toys and books to nearly 86 million economically disadvantaged children. Pete was also responsible for the efficient business practices, effective fundraising, and sound financial management that tripled our investment accounts. Without a doubt, our Foundation was set up for success for many years to come because of this man's vision and extraordinary leadership. We wish Pete and Laura all the very best as they begin the next chapter of their lives together. Well done Marine...Mission Accomplished!

*"The value of Toys for Tots to the Marine Corps and the Reserve establishment: Priceless!"* 





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