

Red Sleigh Toy Run in Tucson

December 7, 2019 marked the 12th annual Red Sleigh Toy Run in Tucson. The RSTR is an all-volunteer organization that works all year to bring Christmas to Tucson Children who've been identified with the help of local Schools & Resource Officers as being 'in need'. Toys and other essentials for the children & their families are delivered right to their door, on motorcycles. My thanks to RSTR Secretary Stephanie Fletcher for her help with this article.

People had the opportunity to drop off toys & other donations ahead of time at This n' That Creative Studio at 7401 E. 22nd St. or S and S Motorsports at 4158 E. Grant Rd.

Stephanie described the ride. "This year we started out from the parking lot at First Southern Baptist Church on Speedway Blvd. There were 128 bikes with about 150 people participating. We were able to have a nice long ride across town before beginning our stops in the 29th/Columbus area. There were 12 stops to deliver toys. It is an escorted ride that allows us to travel safely to each stop.

"We 'adopted' 14 families but ended up helping 20 total. When we roll into a neighborhood to deliver to a family, we also have unwrapped toys and bikes that we hand out to the neighborhood children that show up. We make a lot of noise with that many bikes, so it draws people out to see what's going on."

This year's Red Sleigh Toy Run benefited over 2500 Children, "including ALL of Roberts-Naylor K-8 School so approximately \$10,000.00 worth of Toys/bicycles and food gift cards."

The ride fee included lunch. Once all the deliveries were complete, everyone headed to the last stop at Chuy's Mesquite Broiler at 7101 E. 22nd/Kolb. There were also raffle prizes & a 50/50. "The 50/50 raffle was donated to one of our Board members that is going through a medical emergency."

This is a Community Collaboration, and thanks go out to the Red Sleigh Toy Run sponsors including: "Arizona Dept of Corrections Tucson Complex {They are our major supporters}, All that Vending, S and S Motorsports, Arizona Awards and Engraving, American Legion, Saguaro Desert Landscaping, This n' That Creative Studio, We Rock Photography, Andrada Polytechnic High School Welding and Auto Shop, Southwest Rangers, plus dozens more...."

On behalf of the Red Sleigh Toy Run, Stephanie shared, "We work hard to identify the Schools and students that need our help. We believe that it is our responsibility to take care of those less fortunate than we. We work all year to make this one day a life changing day for families that might not have any hope at Christmas time. The gift we give can change a life, and we have seen and heard it happen more than once. Everyone thinks that the problems of our City/ State/ Country can't be change, but I tell you, that if you make the difference in one person's life it has a chain reaction effect. We are the Change we want to see here in Tucson."

Learn more about the Red Sleigh Toy Run by visiting them online at <https://www.redsleightoyrun.com/> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/redsleightoy/>

Thank you Stephanie & RSTR for the opportunity to share your day with our readers!

Betsy

