



Clay County Toys for Tots Seeks New Warehouse to Keep Holiday Campaign Operating

Clay County, Fla. (July 30, 2026) The Clay County Marine Corps League is asking the community for help in securing a new warehouse to ensure the Marine Toys for Tots program can continue serving local families during the 2027 Christmas season and beyond.

The Clay County Marine Corps League (Roy S. Geiger Detachment 1047), which coordinates the local Toys for Tots campaign, must secure a new warehouse by **January 1, 2027**, after losing access to the donated facility that has housed the program since 2012. The organization's current warehouse was generously donated at no cost for more than a decade, but the property's new owners will require approximately **\$18,000 per year in rent**- funds that would otherwise be used to support children and families throughout Clay County.

The organization is seeking a donated **indoor warehouse or commercial space of approximately 3,000 square feet with electricity** for year-round use. The facility is essential for receiving, sorting, organizing, storing, and distributing thousands of donated toys each holiday season, as well as maintaining equipment and supplies throughout the year. "Our community has made it possible for thousands of children to experience the joy of Christmas for many years," said **Retired First Sergeant Tom Lewnes**, Clay County Marine Toys for Tots Campaign Coordinator. "We're hopeful another community partner will step forward to provide the space we need so we can continue bringing hope and joy to local children for years to come."

The need is significant:

- During the 2025 Toys for Tots campaign in Clay County: **6,177 children** received **18,532 gifts**.
- **28 schools** partnered with Toys for Tots to identify families in need of holiday assistance.
- Since 2012, the Clay County Marine Corps League has distributed **149,651 toys** to **47,041 children** throughout the county.
- The program also supports local organizations, including Guardian ad Litem, The Clothes Closet of Orange Park, the Clay County Sheriff's Office, Head Start programs, JP Hall Children's Charities, and other community partners that serve families during the Christmas season.

Businesses or property owners interested in donating or providing warehouse space, as well as community members with leads or recommendations, are encouraged to contact the local campaign coordinator. Donated space may qualify as a charitable contribution; donors should consult their tax advisor regarding potential tax benefits. For more information or to discuss available warehouse space, use the below contact information or reach out to the Clay County Toys for Tots Facebook page.

Retired First Sergeant Tom Lewnes

Clay County Marine Toys for Tots Campaign Coordinator

Email: clay.county.fl@toysfortots.org

About Marine Toys for Tots

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, founded in 1947, delivers hope to children through the gift of a new toy, book, or other present during the Christmas season. Since its first national campaign in 1948, Toys for Tots has distributed more than 566 million toys to over 258 million children across the United States while helping deliver a message of hope to families in need.