



U S Marine Corps Reserve

Mission Statement

Our local Marine Toys For Tots program was established to provide a tangible sign of hope to economically disadvantaged children throughout Cumberland County at Christmas.

Needs for Funding Request

The primary focus of this program is on the collection of toys throughout Cumberland County. Fundraising is also a pivotal point of our program as it helps us to purchase supplemental gifts for the “pre-teen and teenage” children when our collections fall short of their needs. Fundraising also helps defray the cost of start-up material needs and media exposure (when NOT donated) to promote our community’s outreach to identify and help those less fortunate.

Our Local History

Our Crossville Toys for Tots Campaign was established in 2021 by our local Marine Corps League DET. #1467. Our membership wanted a positive program within our community, one that is already nationally recognized and could benefit our community’s less fortunate. Our initial objective was to be able to supplement local efforts by churches, non-profits, schools, and social service agencies that have a history of serving the less fortunate families within Cumberland County.

Since its inception, our 2021 campaign was able to collect and distribute over 5,000 toys through 78 collection sites including

toys that were supplemented by the Toys for Tots Foundation. This provided approximately 1400 children with a Christmas they may not have been able to experience.

In 2022, that number grew to over 8,000 toys with 90 collection sites. This too was supplemented by our Toys for Tots Foundation along with local corporate contributions. 2022 was a big surprise to us as it showed the generosity of our community and the need in our community as we distributed these toys to approximately 2200 children.

Our 2023 Campaign was the best so far, again showing how much the Greater Cumberland County/Crossville communities care about those children/families who find themselves in unfortunate circumstances beyond their control. In 2023, we collected over 11,000 toys and purchased another 1,985 gifts for the preteen and teenage kids where donations fell short. We distributed them to 4,336 children, 7 local schools, 3 Head Start facilities, and 9 social service agencies in and around Cumberland County.

As we work to build our next campaign (October 1 to December 15), we are already experiencing a huge outpouring of support from our Cumberland County community. Our first community event will be held on Tuesday, September 24th at the Lake Tansi Music Festival. We will bring out our TFT trailer to “ ***Fill the Trailer***” for toy collection during the event.

On Saturday, September 28th the Marine Corps League membership will hold a fundraiser at both Food City locations for the Toys for Tots Campaign.

On Saturday, October 5th we will have our TFT Trailer and Information tent at the Crossville Fly-In at the Crossville Airport on Rt 70.

On Saturday, October 12th the Lake Tansi community once again invited Toys for Tots to their fall Festival “Trash to Treasures”. Again, we will utilize our trailer to “**fill the trailer**” for toy collection.

On Saturday, October 19th we have been invited to participate in the Big Foot Festival that will held at the Cumberland County Fairgrounds. Our trailer and Information tent will be set up as a visible resource for public awareness.

Toys for Tots Foundation is putting an emphasis this year on the growing need among our homeless (children) population. Our campaign, I’m proud to say, has always reached out to the local agencies and schools. We support the local Foster and Adoptive Families group of The Upper Cumberlands and stand ready to do what we can to assist the children because “**Every Child Deserves A Little Bit of Christmas**”

The campaign has experienced steady growth, and we strive to do even more to reach those children who have fallen between the cracks of our social service network. After our 2023 campaign ended, we received a sad letter from Pine View Elementary School advising us that a 5-year-old (a local non-enrolled child) was added to their student list to receive a gift as part of our outreach program. Sadly, the letter informed us that the child did not survive a house fire, but that the family expressed gratitude for receiving a gift and, in their words, “giving their child the best Christmas ever.” Numbers are great for showing growth, but this story shows the real impact our **Toys for Tots** makes among those we serve.

This is what we have accomplished in the short time Crossville Toys for Tots has been in service to our Community.

2021 Campaign

2022 Campaign

2023 Campaign

carry over toys	new	from 2021	210	0
TFT Org. Gifts	1233		432	660
TFT Org. Books	800		480	500
Local Collected	2192		5584	10,504
Local Purchased	983		1337	1,985
Total	5208		8043	13,649
Children serviced	1394		2286	4336

These are a sampling of the agencies we work with to reach those economically stressed children and families;

Stephens House	Head Start 3 locations
Avalon Center	Plateau Pregnancy
Kids on the Rise	Church of the Nazarene
Foster and Adoptive Parents	Operation Sharing
Christmas on the Mountain	Bikers Against Bullying
Lil Pumpkins	Peaks of Hope
Cumberland County School District	
Cumberland County Housing Authority	