

# TOYS FOR TOTS

## TOY RUN COMMITTEE HISTORY

At Christmas time, most Americans think of the U.S. Marine Corps collecting toys for children in need. This has been their way of helping the community at Christmas for over fifty years. The Marines dressed in the blues collecting toys has become an American tradition to many. The support received from businesses has significantly increased the success of this program. Collection sites and/or sponsorships are arranged with businesses. Once the picking up and sorting of toys is completed, then all the toys and money collected are turned over to the Marines to distribute to local agencies in the area. As the number of families in need grow each year so does the need for increased support.

In 1993, a group of ten bikers that had faced hardships of their own in the past decided to do something for the children in the area that were in need. The decision was made to support the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots Program. They imagined there were plenty more bikers that would get involved in their efforts. The belief that children should not be the ones to suffer due to the hardships of the parent is in the heart of many bikers. The group knew the biker community could make a difference for these children if they were given an opportunity. So that is what we provided, the opportunity.

Since 1993 the Toy Run Committee has continued to grow. The Toys for Tots Toy Run which began at Carr's Icehouse is now held at the Pasadena Rodeo Grounds. A ride that began with 10 bikers now exceeds 1,500 bikers. The Toy Run is held the second Saturday of December every year, with a 10:30 AM start time at Walter Hall Park in League City which ends at the Pasadena Rodeo Grounds where all gather for activities for children of all ages, live music, food for everyone, bike contests, a bike show, and a chili cook-off. Santa Claus is also there to listen to all the Christmas wishes of each boy and girl and have a picture taken with every one. The Toys for Tots Toy Run is a family event open to all people.

The entry fee is a new, unwrapped toy or a donation of \$10.00 will be asked at the door. The toys collected at the collection sites around town as well as the toys collected at the event will be turned over to the U.S. Marine Corps to distribute by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December to ensure they get to the children by Christmas day.

We are all about the kids and raising as much money and as many toys as possible to reach as many kids as we can and to share Christmas joy.



*"It's All For The Kids"*



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