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## Lebanon Fire Dept and Wilson County Christmas for All benefiting county children

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The Lebanon Fire Department's annual Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive is in full swing with the 21st Golf for Toys Scramble fundraiser, scheduled for next Monday, Dec. 9 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Lebanon Golf & Country Club located at 1300 Coles Ferry Pike.

Toy and monetary donations are accepted year round.

The toy drive helps the Wilson County Christmas for All nonprofit organization where the toys will be distributed to in-county families that applied. Distribution is at the old Hartmann Luggage building at 1301 W. Baddour Pkwy. in Lebanon. The owners of the building donate space year-round for LFD to store donated toys.

Lebanon Fire Department Division Chief Brian Fountain estimates about 2,200 children were helped last year, and about the same amount will be helped this year, but the only way the project succeeds is through donations and volunteers for WilsonCoCFA.

"We're at the mercy of people's kindness and their hearts to make the donations or bring toys by," Fountain said. "Volunteers are the lifeblood of us to get the toys out to the families who need them. We make the money go as far as we can."

Employees for First Freedom Bank and Wilson Bank and Trust frequently volunteer for the distributions. Other volunteers are sourced through Volunteer Network. About 100 volunteers are signed up for this holiday season.

"We do this for the kids. We estimate 75% of the applicants wouldn't have a Christmas without us," Suzi McCoy, office manager for Wilson County Christmas for All, said. "Without us, parents wouldn't know what to do."

WilsonCoCFA volunteers read over applications filled out online for children up to 13 years old to "shop" for them from the supply of toys stored in the building year-round. The application has categories to choose from including board games, Disney, Legos and Nerf toys with a section for specific gift ideas. This year, many stuffed animals were donated, which volunteers said they normally don't receive. Options for children with sensory needs are also available.

The website, [wilsoncocfa.org](http://wilsoncocfa.org), is where applications and more info about the project can be found. The application form is offered in English and Spanish. Distribution is scheduled for Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday every week until Dec. 21.

Parents or legal guardians must have a photo ID and an identification card for each child they are picking up gifts for.