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Olympia Toy Run helping bring toys and joy to children this holiday season!

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A very special biker in Olympia, lovingly known as Santa Joe, is gearing up his sleigh (motorcycle in reality) to help children in need this year! Gaard met up with Joe "Santa Joe" Sullivan recently to talk about the 45th annual Olympia Toy Run, happening on Dec. 3 to benefit The Salvation Army Toy and Joy program.

The fun starts at 10 a.m. at the South Sound Mall in Lacey with lots of excitement, including vendors and motorcycle drill teams! At 1 p.m. they hop on their bikes and head out for the ride, ending at Marathon Park in Olympia.

Over the years, Santa Joe has helped raise over \$1 million in cash and toys to benefit the Salvation Army and their annual toy drive. Joe and his elves plan all year long for this very special event that benefits kids right here in the Pacific Northwest.

Learn more about the Olympia Toy Run and how you can help here.

Lt. Col. Cindy Foley, Salvation Army Divisional Commander of the Northwest Division, has participated in the Olympia Toy Run herself. Foley says the Salvation Army is composed of an "army" of volunteers who are doing great things in this community, and Santa Joe is a great example of that. Colonel Cindy will do whatever she can to help out, including jumping on a motorcycle!

If Olympia isn't convenient for you, KOMO TV has also teamed up with The Salvation Army Toy and Joy program! Bring new toys to <u>participating local Fred Meyer stores</u> on Dec. 9 to help put toys under the tree and hope in the hearts of local kids. You can also buy a toy on the <u>KOMO Toy Drive AmazonSmile site</u>.

As Santa Joe says, "It's all about the kids!"