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Marines win

Toys For Tots distribution is scheduled for Dec. 15 and 16



Some of the Tri-County Area Toys For Tots Team of volunteers is seen here on Saturday at Walmart in Chiefland. They are (from left) Beverly Goodman, A.D. Goodman, Madison Chrisp, Bryan Chrisp and Norma Santiago.

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Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © Dec. 2, 2017 at 8:17 p.m.

With An Added Photo By

Assistant General Manager Amanda Bryant of Bass Pro Shops - Gainesville

CHIEFLAND – The Tri-County Area's Toys For Tots gift distribution slated for Dec. 15 and 16 looks like it is going to be another success for the United States Marine Corps Reserves.

With final registration on Saturday (Dec. 2) and with that being the conclusion of a two-day last effort for gift-giving at the Walmart in Chiefland, Tri-County Toys For Tots Coordinator Bryan Chrisp said he feels comfortable with the results.

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LCSO Sgt. Max Long is seen with Avie Studstill. This little girl donated a Baby Room Play set with two dolls and accessories. Sgt. Long awarded her with a stick-on badge for her good deed.



This cruiser is stuffed. This was the second year for the Levy County Sheriff's Office to help the Toys For Tots campaign in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties. The LCSO called its effort 'Stuff The Crusier' and that was on Friday and Saturday. Check out the stuffed toys on the cruiser's light bar and floodlight.

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Children with the last name of the registered parent with letters A through M are scheduled to accept their gifts on Dec. 15 in the Walmart parking lot from 3 to 6 p.m.

Children with the last name of the registered parent with letters A through M are scheduled to accept their gifts on Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

As for Saturday's action at Walmart, Chrisp was in the thick of things with help from his daughter Madison Chrisp. His son Johnathan Chrisp was active with another project with his school.

Three volunteers manned a tent for final registration. A.D. Goodman, Beverly Goodman and Norma Santiago helped people register. Santiago provided interpreter services for people who speak Spanish.

Beverly Goodman, who is the manager of the Tri-County Community Resource Center, mentioned some of the Dixie County contributors to the toy collection effort this year. Among them were the Ameris Bank in Cross City; the First Baptist Church in Cross City; the Suwannee River Baptist Church of Old Town; the Dixie County Public Library in Cross City and there was a Dixie County Chamber of Commerce meeting where members brought toys.

Among the significant participants beyond the USMC Reserve this year again was the Levy County Sheriff's Office.

LCSO Sgt. Max Long of the LCSO Community Relations Division manned the cruiser on both Friday and Saturday to accept toys from donors. Sgt. Long mentioned that some people gave money to buy toys.

During the collection period on Friday, Long said there were four boxes filled with toys.

Chrisp, who is also coordinating the Alachua County Toys For Tots efforts, said he is extremely thankful for one particular retailer in Gainesville; and for a hospital as well.



Here are eight of the many boxes of toys that Bass Pro Shops of Gainesville donated to help the children of the Tri-County Area have a good Christmas this year.

Photo Provided by Assistant General Manager Amanda Bryant of Bass Pro Shops - Gainesville

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Chrisp said he can't say enough about all of the help from Bass Pro Shops of Gainesville to assure the Tri-County Area's Toys For Tots event succeeds this Christmas.

Not only is this retailer in Alachua County accepting toys in boxes, Chrisp said, but Bass Pro Shops is providing the Toys For Tots volunteers with warehouse space to prepare for the distribution.

Another significant contributor to the campaign in the Tri-County Area this year, Chrisp said, is North Florida Regional Medical Center.

This hospital based in Gainesville donated 12 boxes full of toys from its pond-lighting event on Dec. 1 alone, he added. NFRMC is giving more boxes beyond that.

As of Saturday, Chrisp said he is sure the certain will bring joy to many children in the Tri-County Area again this year.