

Leominster Credit Union Sponsors Annual Marine Corp Reserve's Toys for Tots Campaign

For the seventeenth consecutive year, Leominster Credit Union (LCU) is pleased to participate in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots Campaign. For more than six decades, the Toys for Tots annual effort has collected and distributed presents to needy children each Christmas.

As one of this year's sponsors, LCU has strategically placed in each of its offices large bins for donations of new, unwrapped toys. The donations are regularly transported by Marine Reservists and volunteers to a central warehouse, where the toys are sorted by age-and gender-appropriateness. With the help of local social agencies and churches, the presents are distributed to local children in time for Christmas.

Toys for Tots was started in 1947 by Major Bill Henricks, USMCR, and a handful of Reservists in Los Angeles. The first donation was a Raggedy Ann doll that had been handcrafted by Major Henricks' wife, Diane.

In 2008 local Toys for Tots campaigns were conducted in 657 communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. In 2009 Toys for Tots' goal remains unchanged: "To deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens."

During its many years of service, Toys for Tots has collected and distributed more than 400 million Christmas gifts to 188 million children.

Donations of new, unwrapped toys can be made at any LCU branch office through December 18, 2009. Branches are located in Leominster, Worcester, Holden, Clinton, Sterling, and North Leominster.