

Disney VoluntEARS deliver thousands of gifts to Toys for Tots

Donating more than 25,000 toys, Disney VoluntEARS hope to spread cheer to Central Florida families this holiday season

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla., Dec. 8, 2017 - Don't ask U.S. Marine Sgt. Robert Bacchus what his favorite toy is. For him, every doll, game, stuffed animal and play set is the best.

Sgt. Bacchus coordinates the Toys for Tots Programs for the U.S. Marine Corps around Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties, so every toy donated becomes his favorite. Each donated toy means he's one step closer to providing a better holiday to some of Central Florida's children.

Today, Disney VoluntEARS delivered more than 25,000 toys and gifts to surprise the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve as part of their annual Toys for Tots program. This year, the Marines have registered more than 30,000 children in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties to receive a special gift from the program. The donated gifts will contribute to the campaign's efforts to make sure every child has at least one gift with their name on it this holiday season.

"This has been a challenging year for Central Florida, and I'm inspired to see our community come together to take care of our youngest residents during the holiday season," said Sgt. Bacchus. "We're so grateful for the generosity of Disney Cast Members who have brought their own special kind of magic out to the warehouse today."

In addition to donating gifts, Disney VoluntEARS have collectively given more than 3,000 hours of their time toward the cause. They've also helped clean and organize the warehouse, sort toys for distribution, and even assist with the distribution of toys and gifts to registered families.

"One of my favorite things about the holiday season is the spirit of giving and friendship, and I'm so humbled by the generosity of our Cast Members this year," said Rena Langley, senior vice president of public affairs for Walt Disney World Resort. "We get to see our Cast Members make magic in our theme parks and resorts every day, and today we took that magic into the community."

Disney has supported Toys for Tots from its beginning, since Walt Disney and his team of artists created the original red train logo for the organization in 1948. In the past 15 years, Walt Disney World Resort Cast Members have donated more than 400,000 toys to the program.

As a company with nearly 73,000 Cast Members in Central Florida, Walt Disney World Resort is committed to investing in the community in ways that directly improve the lives of Central Florida children and families.