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Philadelphia Fire Department Joins Forces with the Marine Corp Reserves “Toys for Tots” Program

Philadelphia: Once again the Holiday season is upon us and a time for giving is at hand. Starting November 23, 2011, the United States Marine Corp Reserve, the Philadelphia Fire Department and the Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter will be joining forces this Christmas season to deliver smiles and good cheer to children and families throughout the area. All Philadelphia firehouses throughout the city have been designated as “Toys for Tots” drop-off locations. The city’s firehouses are prepared to receive donated, unwrapped toys from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. Check or cash donations will not be accepted at these locations.

One reason for this collaboration is that the valiant members of the United States Marine Corps are engaged in conflicts protecting the sovereignty of the United States. The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have lessened the local forces who would normally be dedicated to the “Toys for Tots” program. Over the 62 years of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve “Toys for Tots” Program, Marines have distributed more than 400 million toys to more than 188 million needy children. This charitable endeavor has made the U. S. Marines the unchallenged leader in looking after less fortunate children at Christmas. The Philadelphia Fire Department along with its partner the American Red Cross recognizes the value of this program and has pledged its support to this effort. Fire Commissioner Ayers cares deeply about the citizens of Philadelphia, and issues involving children are given a special status. Commissioner Ayers wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season this year.

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