

**December 13, 2018**

## **MCHD raises funds to aid Toys for Tots campaign**

MOBILE, Alabama — Once again, the Mobile County Health Department is taking part in the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign. The mission of the program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December, and to distribute the toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community.



For the last 11 years, employees with MCHD and Family Health — its primary care division — have had the opportunity to purchase tickets that allow them to dress casually on Fridays between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Proceeds from the tickets are then given back to the Marines in order to buy the toys.

MCHD's Employee Association partnered with Social Services for a ticket sales blitz and giveaway drawings to help make this year's donation successful. And what a campaign it has been!

At the recent MCHD Employee Winter Training, the funds collected so far were presented to Staff Sgt. Jonathan Hill of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, based in Mobile. Hill said the funds will be used to buy toys in 2019 for children in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

Carol Cannon, who oversees the Social Services program at MCHD, told the audience that this has been the health department's most successful campaign. Even with purchase of tickets continuing until December 28, she was able to give the Marines a check for \$2,201.

This is one dollar more than the entire 2017 campaign. Cannon said over the last decade, MCHD has donated more than \$14,000 to Toys for Tots.

In 1947, Major Bill Hendricks of the Marine Corps Reserves founded Toys for Tots in Los Angeles, California. More than 5,000 toys were collected during that campaign, with the first toy being a handmade doll.

The following year, the Marine Corps adopted the mission and expanded it into a nationwide community action project as the Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots Program. Walt Disney designed the now famous train logo and created the first national Toys for Tots poster.

In 1995, the Secretary of Defense approved Toys for Tots as an official activity of the U. S. Marine Corps and an official mission of the Marine Corps Reserve. Over its life span, the Marine Toys for Tots Program has distributed more than 548 million toys to over 251 million less fortunate children.

To learn more or to make a donation, visit [www.ToysForTots.org](http://www.ToysForTots.org).