



*Making a
Difference!*

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Toys For Tots

*Consider donating a new toy
for those less fortunate.*

Each month, Louie Lee of The Lee team uses this space to shine the spotlight on a nonprofit organization that's making our community a better place to be in with the hope of generating support from the people who live here. Louie is proud to highlight toys for Tots this month. If you have a nonprofit you would like highlighted in Making a Difference, please contact Louie.

For many families, the holiday season is a time of joy and celebration, but for others, it can bring financial hardship that makes gift-giving a struggle.

The **Toys for Tots** program steps in to help, ensuring that children who are less fortunate still have a gift to open and a reason to smile. The simple act of receiving a toy can create a lasting, happy memory.

Coldwell Banker real estate agent Louie Lee, who has witnessed the impact of the organization, spearheads the program in Castle Pines. He shares a connection with the mothers who can choose toys for their children, an experience he describes as "just special."

These aren't just toys — they are symbols of hope and community kindness. The generosity of the Castle Pines community is remarkable, Lee said. Donations often include high-quality items like bicycles. Lee, who transports the donations to a Denver warehouse, credits the community's spirit. "It's not me, it's the people in our community," he said. "I'm just happy to be a conduit."

Toys for Tots, created in 1947 in Los Angeles by U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks and his wife, Diane, has grown into a nationwide effort. Last year in the greater Denver area, the organization distributed 186,501 toys to 91,235 children.

"The Marines are not just protectors of our nation; they are pillars of our community, showing up for families who need it most," Lee said. "Their dedication goes beyond military service, proving that the Marine spirit of honor and courage is also about helping our most vulnerable citizens."

While Toys for Tots is best known for its Christmas charity, its mission extends year-round, providing emotional support and assistance to economically disadvantaged children. The program also collaborates with foster care and Native American communities and supports literacy by distributing age-appropriate books.

The impact of a single toy is profound. Studies show that a toy can inspire a sense of belonging and optimism in a child, sparking imagination and creativity that lasts well beyond the holiday season. The gift of a toy is a powerful reminder that even in challenging times, the community cares. **New unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the South Metro Fire Station at 475 E. Happy Canyon Road in Castle Rock from mid-November through mid-December.**

