



# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Please note: a press kit (featuring graphics and photos) is available on our website at [www.OperationToyTrain.org/press](http://www.OperationToyTrain.org/press)*

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### **SPECIAL TOY COLLECTION TRAIN OPERATING IN DECEMBER**

For the ninth holiday season in a row, a special train will collect over 20,000 toys for the U.S. Marine Corps to benefit underprivileged children in northern New Jersey and southern New York.

Operation Toy Train is operated during the first two weekends in December to collect toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation, which collects donated toys each year and distributes them as holiday gifts to underprivileged children in the community where the campaign is conducted. Our train benefits the Toys for Tots efforts at Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, NJ and Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, NY.

Five railroads (and their personnel) donate time, equipment, and the use of their tracks to Operation Toy Train each year. Additional railroad equipment, funds, and volunteer staff come from a number of additional nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

Members of the public are encouraged to drop off new toys in their original packaging (no gift wrapping, please!) in October, November, and the first week of December at any of the train's 18 stops. Near each stop, our local business and organizational partners have large Toys for Tots collection boxes. The public may also visit the train itself when it arrives in December to donate toys, board the train's caboose to see Santa Claus, view a variety of working railroad equipment, and meet members of the Marine Corps and the Operation Toy Train program.

A full train schedule, list of collection points, and sponsor list are available on the Operation Toy Train website at [www.OperationToyTrain.org](http://www.OperationToyTrain.org). Businesses, organizations, and individuals looking to sponsor, donate to, or participate in Operation Toy Train are also encouraged to visit the website to learn how to get involved.