

# Patch

## Toys for Tots Kicks Off 2011 Season

Coordinators convened in Leesburg, from around the nation, to plan for the upcoming holidays

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The annual Coordinator Conference for Toys for Tots was held in Leesburg on Thursday. Participants learned how to handle donations and coordinate drop offs. Credit Vicki Bendure

Toys for Tots held its annual Coordinator Conference at The National Conference Center (NCC), in Leesburg, earlier today. Nearly 500 coordinators from around the nation attended the event where they learned everything from handling donations to coordinating toy drop offs.

Toys for Tots is a national charity program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve, which collects and distributes toys to less fortunate children whose parents may be struggling financially during the holiday season. It is the only charitable endeavor associated with the Department of Defense that reaches out to local communities.

The program was started in 1947 in California by Major William L. Hendricks. As of 2009, the Toys for Tots program and foundation, has collected and distributed almost five hundred million toys.

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