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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY SUPPORTING TOYS FOR TOTS PROGRAM BY ACCEPTING TOY DROP OFFS FROM PUBLIC THROUGH DECEMBER 13 AT DOWNERS GROVE HEADQUARTERS

Initiative expands toy donation program supported by Tollway employees

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is expanding its support of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program by accepting toy donations from the public through Thursday, December 13, at the Tollway's headquarters, 2700 Ogden Avenue, in Downers Grove.

New, unwrapped toys will be accepted weekdays between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. in drop boxes located in the Tollway's lobby.

All donated toys will be given to the Toys for Tots program, which will deliver the gifts to less fortunate children in the Chicago area to help them experience the joy of Christmas.

"Participating in this toy collection drive is an annual tradition at the Tollway, but we want to step up our efforts this year to help ensure more children receive gifts at Christmas," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Liz Gorman. "We're asking our customers and other members of the community to consider donating a toy that will help put a smile on the face of a young boy or girl on Christmas Day."

The Illinois Tollway supports the Toys for Tots program annually but is expanding its participation by also asking members of the public to join with agency employees in contributing toys to help make the Christmas holiday brighter for youngsters who otherwise might not receive a gift. Last year, Tollway employees contributed more than 1,200 toys and gifts to the program, including bikes, sports equipment and electronic games.

Toys for Tots is unable to accept new or used stuffed animals or realistic toy weapons. Additionally, Toys for Tots typically receives fewer items intended for older children ages 10 to 12, so donations of items such as electronic games, jewelry sets, arts and crafts, models and creative/educational items are appreciated.

About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 294 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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