



**PUGET SOUND AREA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **USO Puget Sound Area Joins KIRO TV and Quiznos in Major Toys for Tots Christmas Effort**

Seattle – In a final push for Toys for Tots donations, the USO Puget Sound Area (USOPSA) Mobile Canteen will join the KIRO TV and Quiznos toy drop-off station on Friday, Dec. 12, all day at KIRO headquarters 28007 Third Avenue, Seattle. Volunteers from the USO plan to gather toys from 80 Quiznos shops around the Puget Sound area for delivery to the station. People are encouraged to take advantage of the drive-by, donation station and bring toys for needy kids throughout the day.

Don Leingang, Commander USN (Ret), USOPSA executive director, says that the Toys for Tots program has been a popular gift-giving program within military circles and communities around the country. “We are excited to partner for the first time with KIRO and Quiznos to help bring Christmas cheer to children throughout the community,” says Leingang. “One of our greatest strengths is the USO’s volunteer ‘army,’ and they’ve been out in force collecting toys around the region.”

Over 275 volunteers provide support to the Puget Sound region’s 300,000 military members and their families. “About 90 percent of our services are through the efforts of our volunteers,” says Leingang. “That’s a remarkable number. For them it’s all about showing gratitude for our military families.”

Founded in 1947, the Toys for Tots program became an official mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in 1995. The toy effort now covers all 50 states through selected Marine Corps League Detachments, local business and community organizations, and veterans groups.

Leingang added that the USOPSA has a personal connection to the Toys for Tots program, “Former USOPSA board chairman, and retired Navy Admiral, Herb Bridge, is a founding advocate and longtime supporter of the Toys for Tots program.”

For more background on the work of the USOPSA and information on the drive-by toy station, go to

[www.usopsa.org](http://www.usopsa.org)

[www.kirotv.com](http://www.kirotv.com)

*Nationally recognized, the USO Puget Sound Area has served over 3 million of America’s men and women in uniform and their families for over 40 years. The mission of USO Puget Sound Area is to provide a “home away from home,” family support, and recreation opportunities to the members and families of our Armed Forces. We connect individuals, civic groups and businesses with the region’s military community.*