



**WWW.WOOD.ARMY.MIL / MSCoE**  
U.S. ARMY MANEUVER SUPPORT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FT. LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI



# Media Release

---

---

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI 65473  
VOICE: 573-563-4145  
BY: Marti Yoshida  
EMAIL: [martha.l.yoshida.civ@mail.mil](mailto:martha.l.yoshida.civ@mail.mil)

Media Release No. 12-133a

Dec. 12, 2012

## **Annual benefit brings holiday joy to area children**

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. - The Fort Leonard Wood Lions Club, Army Community Service and numerous community groups surrounding the installation hosted this year's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual St. Nick's Benefit Dec. 11 in Grant Hall at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Adjutant General Battalion.

The purpose of this cooperative effort is to provide some holiday joy to children in the area who may otherwise go without a Christmas present.

More than 1,200 gifts were collected on behalf of area children of Army Community Service, Head Start of Pulaski County, B.W. Robinson State School, Pulaski County Foster Care Program, Piney Ridge Center, Boys & Girls Town of St. James, and Choices for People center.

(more)

Col. William Pfeffer, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood's garrison commander, said this year's ceremony represented gift giving at an unbelievable level.

Wendy Williams, Fort Leonard Wood Lions Club president, thanked the community for their support in making the event possible; and recognized Casey and Jocelyn Morris for being there every day leading up to this year's benefit.

The event included musical performances by the 399<sup>th</sup> Army Band Brass Quintet; the Waynesville High School Junior ROTC Choir under the direction of Master Sgt. Walter Reese; and carolers from Fort Leonard Wood's Child Development Center Strong Beginnings Pre-kindergarten program, lead by Paula Maggard, Pamele Jones and Debbie Aragon.

The St. Nick's benefit was established 32 years ago by the installation's staff judge advocate and his wife. At that time, 30 children received presents. The Fort Leonard Wood Lions Club began sponsoring the event 12 years ago. Today, more than 1,200 presents will be distributed to children because of the support of 97 contributing donor organizations and countless individuals who participate in the annual St. Nick's Benefit.

-30-

DSC05878: Fort Leonard Wood's 43<sup>rd</sup> Adjutant General Battalion, which normally serves as the reception area for incoming Soldiers to the Army, contained more than 1,200 presents to be given to area children as part of the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual St. Nick's Benefit held Dec. 11. Army photo/Marti Yoshida

DSC05889: Santa and Mrs. Claus take time out for a photo opportunity at the National Guard Patriot Chopper on display at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Adjutant General Battalion Dec. 11 in support of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Nick's Benefit. The Patriot Chopper is here at Fort Leonard Wood in combination with the 376<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Army National Guard, which is officially celebrated Dec. 13. Army photo/Marti Yoshida

DSC05923: Lisa Yenter, Ann Wells and Usa Iverson view the National Guard Patriot Chopper on display in support of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Nick's Benefit held Dec. 11 at Grant Hall. The Fort Wood Community Spouses Club provided support for the event. Army photo/Marti Yoshida

DSC05929: Col. William Pfeffer, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood garrison commander, Santa and Mrs. Claus celebrate the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Nick's Benefit at the 43<sup>rd</sup> AG Battalion Dec. 11. More than 1,200 gifts were collected on behalf of area children of Army Community Service, Head Start of Pulaski County, B.W. Robinson State School, Pulaski County Foster Care Program, Piney Ridge Center, Boys & Girls Town of St. James, and Choices for People center. Army photo/Marti Yoshida

DSC05898 and DSC05899: Waynesville High School's Junior ROTC Choir, directed by Master Sgt. Walter Reese, sings traditional favorites including "Carol of the Bells," "Jingle Bell Rock," and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," during the St. Nick's Benefit held Tuesday at the 43<sup>rd</sup> AG Battalion. The 14-member group participates in several patriotic events throughout the year providing color and honor guard detail along with patriotic speeches. Army photo/Marti Yoshida

DSC05904: Carolers from Fort Leonard Wood's Child Development Center Strong Beginnings Pre-K program, lead by Paula Maggard, Pamele Jones and Debbie Aragon, sing "Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer," "Jingle Bells," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," during the annual benefit that provides gifts to children in the area who may otherwise not get a present this holiday season. Army photo/Marti Yoshida

DSC05902: Col. William Pfeffer, Fort Leonard Wood garrison commander, and Wendy Williams, Fort Leonard Wood Lions Club president, present a Certificate of Appreciation to Waynesville High School's Junior ROTC Choir for their participation in the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual St. Nick's Benefit held Dec. 11 at Grant Hall. Army photo/Marti Yoshida

DSC\_9595: Spc. Andrew Moon, 399th Army Band Brass Quintet ensemble plays the French Horn during the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual St. Nick's Benefit Dec. 11 at Fort Leonard Wood's 43<sup>rd</sup> Adjutant General Battalion. The 43<sup>rd</sup> AG, which normally serves as the reception area for incoming Soldiers to the Army, contained more than 1,200 presents to be given to area children. Army photo/Michael Curtis

DSC\_9658: Children from Fort Leonard Wood's Child Development Center Strong Beginnings Pre-K program, lead by Paula Maggard, Pamele Jones and Debbie Aragon, sing carols during the annual St. Nick's Benefit. Army photo/Michael Curtis

MC1\_3964: Carolers from Fort Leonard Wood's Child Development Center Strong Beginnings Pre-K program, lead by Paula Maggard, Pamele Jones and Debbie Aragon, sing during the annual St. Nick's Benefit held Dec. 11 at Grant Hall. Army photo/Michael Curtis

MC1\_3945: Waynesville High School's Junior ROTC Choir, directed by Master Sgt. Walter Reese, sings traditional favorites including "Carol of the Bells," "Jingle Bell Rock," and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," during the St. Nick's Benefit held Tuesday at the 43<sup>rd</sup> AG Battalion. The 14-member group participates in several patriotic events throughout the year providing color and honor guard detail along with patriotic speeches. Army photo/Michael Curtis

DSC\_9681: Col. William Pfeffer, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood's garrison commander, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus during the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Nick's Benefit Dec. 11 at Grant Hall. This year's event represented gift giving at an unbelievable level with more than 1,200 presents donated to area children. Army photo/Michael Curtis

MC1\_3916: A child from Fort Leonard Wood's Child Development Center Strong Beginnings Pre-K program gets to meet St. Nick himself during the annual St. Nick's Benefit held Dec. 11 at Grant Hall. Army photo/Michael Curtis

MC1\_3942: Wendy Williams, Fort Leonard Wood Lions Club president, thanked the community for their support in making the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Nick's Benefit possible; and recognized Casey and Jocelyn Morris for being there every day leading up to this year's benefit held Dec. 11 at Grant Hall. Army photo/Michael Curtis

### *About Fort Leonard Wood*

---

*Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains 80-90,000 military and civilians each year.*

*Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only five reception stations in the Army, and the Army's largest Non Commissioned Officers Academy.*

*Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.*