Toys for Tots originally began in 1947, founded by Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR in Los Angeles, California. In 1948, Walt Disney designed the Toys for Tots train logo and created the first national poster.

The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program is to collect new, unwrapped toys to distribute as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community. The primary goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, through a new toy, a message of hope to needy youngsters that will motivate them to grow into responsible, productive patriotic citizens and community leaders.

The objectives of Toys for Tots are to help children throughout the United States experience the joy of Christmas; to play an active role in the development of one of our nation’s most valuable natural resources—our children; and to unite all members of local communities in a common cause during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign.

In 2003 the Reader’s Digest named Marine Toys for Tots Foundation America’s “Best Children’s Charity”...Forbes named Marine Toys for Tots Foundation on the Top 10 charities on the Forbes “Gold Star” list. This year, the College of Engineering will participate for the 22nd year in the local campaign. We like supporting this event because every bit of money and toys collected, stay right here in Centre County.

In the past 21 years that the College of Engineering has been involved in this campaign, we have donated over $61,462 for the thousands of toys that resulted in one goal—to provide hope and joy to needy children who might otherwise miss the things that many of us take for granted. The simple gift of a toy during the holiday season may be the difference for some child between having hope and joy and perhaps of giving up. Some would say that it is only a toy, but the Marine Corps Reserve has learned over the past 67 years that it is more than that!

If you would like to participate in this worthwhile campaign, please send your checks or unwrapped new toys to the Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Department. All money collected will be used to purchase new toys and books at Ollies—they will exempt the tax and donate 20% for our shopping spree. We will be collecting toys and donations until December 11th. We will use all monetary donations to purchase toys at a great discount and deliver the toys to the Penn Stater in time for their wrapping schedule (see below).

You can give your donations to: Wayne Royer or Dianne Crust, 132 Reber Bldg. Checks should be made payable to Dianne Crust with “Toys for Tots” written in the memo. A receipt for tax purposes will be written for all monetary donations.

If you would like to participate in the wrapping of these gifts, please report to the Penn Stater on the following dates: Saturday, December 13th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Sunday, December 14th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Monday, December 15th from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, Tuesday, December 16th from 1:00 to 8:00 pm, Wednesday, December 17th—only if needed.

This campaign is being organized by the Mechanical And Nuclear Engineering Charities Committee.