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FedEx Employees Volunteer for Nearly Two Decades at MacDill Air Force Base Trees for Troops Event

Tampa, Fla., December 12, 2023 - FedEx employees in Tampa took to heart their company's goal of making every experience outstanding, when they volunteered at the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation's Trees for Troops (T4T) event at MacDill Air Force Base. This nearly 20-year tradition happened on December 8th, when approximately 40-60 active and retired military member FedEx employees came from around the state to unload and prepare fresh farm-grown Christmas trees for display before helping families choose the perfect donated tree. Once selected, each tree was taken to a fresh cut station for a quick trim before being tied to the car or truck to take it home.

"FedEx team members from across our organization were represented at this event," explains state T4T Coordinator, Angela Howlett. "We even had people from out of state join us."

Howlett says they definitely get a lot of the same team members each year, while also adding new ones. "It's pretty neat to see team members getting the opportunity to network and come together as a team for such a great cause. We even have one team member that purchased a tree netter just for this annual event."

FedEx volunteers also donated small giveaway items such as stuffed animals, coloring books, and cards to the children and troops during the event.

"I think the FedEx team as a whole hopes that event has as much of an impact on the military families as it does on each of us," says Howlett. "The experience is very rewarding, as it is truly a gift to be able to give back to those that protect us and our country each and every day."

Since 2005, FedEx Freight has supported the Trees for Troops program, an initiative that delivers farm-grown Christmas trees to domestic and international U.S. military bases. This long-standing collaboration has become a cherished tradition for FedEx Freight, with drivers logging over 600,000 miles for tree deliveries over the years.

"This program started on a crazy idea and started small. We delivered 4,300 trees to only five bases that first year," said Wendy Richardson, Chair of the Christmas Spirit Foundation Board of Trustees.

"It's hard to believe we're now going to exceed 300,000 total trees since we began working with FedEx 19 years ago. The commitment and dedication of all involved is truly inspiring. We love providing Christmas spirit to the men and women and their families in our military, one tree at a time."

Those interested in the program can visit the Trees for Troops website to donate online, and follow Trees for Troops on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter. A full list of participating locations can be found at treesfortroops.org.

FedEx Freight participates with the Trees for Troops program as part of FedEx Cares, the company's global community engagement program. For more information on how FedEx team members around the globe "Drive forward. Give back." by volunteering and doing countless acts of caring throughout the year, check out fedexcares.com.

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About the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation and Trees for Troops®

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization that works to recognize and support the true spirit of Christmas through programs like Trees for Troops®. The foundation was established in 2005 and is among fewer than five percent of U.S. charities to be awarded the "Best in America" seal of excellence by Independent Charities of America. To learn more visit www.christmasspiritfoundation.org.

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