FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler County financial analyst uses holiday decorating contest as a springboard for toy drive

December 8, 2020 – It isn’t Santa’s workshop without hundreds of toys spread about. And if one is going to make those toys part of the holiday décor, taking up a collection that benefits the children of Flagler County makes perfect sense.

“I knew right away when we came up with the idea to decorate our front office like Santa’s workshop that I wanted to help the children of our county,” said Financial Analyst Lacy Martin, who is the mother of two young children. “People are struggling, and I can’t imagine how heartbreaking it must be if you have to choose between food on the table or presents from Santa.”

Toys for Tots, run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve, immediately came to mind. Martin contacted the local chapter to make arrangements.

“It was important to me that the toys stay in Flagler,” Martin said. “All of these toys – 100% of them – will benefit children right here.”

Martin received permission to send an email blast to all county employees, and posted about the collection on her Facebook page.

“Commissioner (Joe) Mullins shared it on his Facebook page, and the Property Appraiser’s Office and Jay Gardner collected money to buy two bikes,” she said. “I just picked up 140 stuffed animals from Social Services. The response has been great.”

The collection continues through Thursday on the third floor of the Government Services Building – behind the elevator bank – 1769 E. Moody Boulevard, Bunnell. The Marine Corps Reserve picks the toys up on Friday.

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