Post hosts community toy and food drive

By Sgt. Will Hill
CRIER STAFF WRITER

To help support the local community, the leadership at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center hosted a toy and food drive so citizens can provide for their families in time for the holidays.

The goal was to collect 2,000 pounds of food and 1,000 toys to be given out to the local community.

Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Spade, the post command sergeant major, asked every Soldier to contribute by donating non-perishable food items and toys with a price range of $5 to $15.

Toys will still be accepted until mid-December.

"If we do things as a collective body, then we could help more people rather than a few individuals," Spade said.

Spade said with the upcoming holidays, the families that cannot afford food may not be able to buy gifts for their children.

"Could you imagine being a child waking up on Christmas Day and having nothing to open because your family has nothing to give? My heart would break if I was that mother or father," Spade said.

"I believe the Soldiers on this installation are blessed," he added. "We have jobs and we get paid good money for what we do and we should be giving back to our

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Above: Donated food awaits delivery at Camp Atterbury. The food drive is done, but toys can be dropped off at Building 1 and Trailer P11 through mid-December.

Left: Sgt. Maj. Jodie Newby puts her non-perishable food items in the collection container for Camp Atterbury's toy and food drive. Leaders at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center said their goal was to collect 2,000 pounds of food and 1,000 toys to give to the local community.

✦Toys

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community.

"There are people out there that are hurting and people out there in need so do the right thing and donate," Spade said.

Maj. Douglas Brown, a chaplain at Camp Atterbury, reminisced about hardships his family faced when he was a child and how hard his parents struggled to support their five children.

One morning, Brown said, he walked out onto his front porch and found five bags of groceries sitting there.

"To this day, I still do not know who put those groceries out there, but here it is some 40 years later and I still remember it," Brown said.

"(You can) take the time and effort to make a memory of love for someone, too," he said.

"We as a nation have deeply entrenched values: love, respect, dignity, self worth and hope. When those kinds of values are upheld over generations such as at Christmas and Thanksgiving, they become enforced by emotional connection and association with this time of year.

"Donating helps to not only continue to uphold such values but they also prove the capability we as humans have in showing each other some of the various forms of love," Brown said.

The food drive ended Nov. 15 and food was delivered to local pantries Nov. 20.

The toy drive is scheduled to end mid-December. Toys can be dropped off at Building 1, Trailer P11.

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