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SUBJ: TOYS FOR TOTS LITERACY PROGRAM SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS RECEIVING TITLE I FUNDING

To support economically disadvantaged children, the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, through the Toys for Tots Literacy Program sponsored by The UPS Store, is providing books directly to schools receiving Title I funding. These books can be distributed directly to students or used in your libraries and classrooms. Your school, and/or school district, can request books for specific reading levels that will be shipped directly to you. These books are provided free to you due to charitable donations of The UPS Store as well as the generosity of the American public. Assisting in this effort are the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (or NAESPA, where ESEA is the Elementary and Secondary Education Act).

As background, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, with our long-time partner The UPS Store, Inc., launched the Toys for Tots Literacy Program in 2008, a year-round initiative to support less fortunate children across our Nation's communities. The Program offers the Nation's most economically disadvantaged children the ability to compete academically and to succeed in life by providing them direct access to books and educational resources that enhance their ability to read and communicate effectively. This Program not only brings the joy of reading to these children, but also serves as an important tool in breaking the cycle of poverty.

Since its inception, through the generosity of The UPS Store retail locations, the Program has collected nearly \$7.3 million and distributed over 44 million books. Last year when the COVID-19 pandemic began, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation initiated an endeavor to help lessen children's anxiety and bring normalcy to their lives by providing books directly to schools receiving Title I funding. This initiative was responsible for distributing over 172,000 books to children attending Title I schools.

To assist children directly by giving them books, or to help teachers with reading material in their classrooms or school libraries, the Foundation's book vendors will send reading level appropriate books, per your requests, that focus on topics, as much as possible, on subjects that provide children with the tools necessary to be successful throughout their lives. Books that focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) as well as titles that provide both entertainment and enrichment. We will send up to 500,000 books across the Nation with this back-to-school endeavor!

We invite you to go to our Title I School Book Request Form located here <https://www.toysfortots.org/literacy/title-1-book-request.aspx> and indicate your needs.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation looks forward to assisting your students with greater access to books. We hope that by providing these books, we are in a small part helping your mission of educating our Nation's most precious recourse – our children!

Thank you for all you do and Semper Fidelis!

**The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is a Combined Federal Campaign approved charity (#10400)**

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