

LONGMONT KIWANIS CLUB TOYS FOR KIDS SIGNATURE PROJECT

Longmont Kiwanis Club's Toys for Kids Signature Project is both a Service and a Fundraising Project.

From the child/family agencies we support in our community, we knew simple wood toys would be welcome. From a previous member survey, we knew that some of our members were interested in wood working. Further research indicated success by other non-local volunteer groups making toys for donation. Play is a very important part of child growth and development especially at times of stress, illness or unavailable toys.



Some of the 70 different toys that we make.



Children 1 to 7 years old enjoy playing with the toys.

In the 2015-16 year, we made and distributed 9000 toys. Since starting in October 2010, over 40,000 children have benefitted including those in (12) other communities in our state, (5) other states and (9) other countries. Ronald McDonald Houses, Children's Hospitals, community and county agencies serving children & families, church mission & military teams travelling overseas as well as low income medical care facilities and community Christmas shopping opportunities are typical toy recipients.

Over half (15) of our club members regularly volunteer every Thursday afternoon for this project in an important benefactor provided shop space. Over 100 additional volunteers help make toys including Niwot and Frederick High School Key Club members. 3-2-1 club members of the Skyline Kiwanis Club and High School Leadership Academy students annually also assemble hundreds of toys for donation.



*Chinese New Year celebration at Skyline High School
with kids making their own roosters.*

Every year, hospitalized children at Kiwanis partner Children's Miracle Network's Colorado Children's Hospital, North Campus benefit from delivered donated toys.

In 2015-16 we partnered with the Aurora Kiwanis Club's Aktion Club who finished assembly of 103 toys for donation. The Coronado Kiwanis Club, Albuquerque, NM members helped staff an exhibition and distributed 1000 donated toys to eight organizations serving children. 1000 toys are donated annually to the Sweet Dream in a Bag project of the Denver Tech Kiwanis Club.

Girl Scout Troops, I have a Dream Foundation students and high school students interested in accumulating community service hours help make toys.

Woodley's Fine Furniture with a number of retail stores in Colorado donate much of the hardwood we use. Rigid Truss Manufacturing donates much of the pine wood we use.

For handouts at exhibitions and toy deliveries, we include our 3 x 8 information flyer with the Kiwanis logos & "Serving the Children of the World". Our club website features a photo of toys resulting in toy project inquiries. Past Times-Call and Denver Post newspaper articles, Longmont Kiwanis toys remain on line resulting in contacts.

We attend (12) exhibitions promoting Kiwanis, tell about our club, the Toys for Kids Project, monitor children at our play table and sell about 10% of our toys annually aiding prospective member interest. We have gained (5) new members.



Children's play table at a typical exhibit.

In 2015-16, necessary purchased components cost \$5538. The cost per member was \$198. Every toy is modestly priced on a published price list. Funds raised were \$9052, \$323 per member.



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LONGMONT KIWANIS

Toys for Kids Project



Using donated lumber, volunteers make wood toys for donation to kids in need being served by family/child welfare organizations locally and overseas. Sales of the modestly priced toys help defray the cost of purchased supplies. Project Sponsors include:

Steve's Automotive, Longmont

Ron's Printing Center

Project Coordinator Marv Van Peurse

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The information flyer sent with donated toys and distributed at all exhibit events.