



ToyMakers of East Lake

"Making Smiles One Toy at a Time"



Toy Stories

Spring 2016 by Dan Pearch

Welcome to the inaugural edition of "Toy Stories", the newsletter of The ToyMakers of East Lake. With your support, our 300 volunteers were able to deliver smiles to 12,000 children in 2015! In February and March of this year, we have delivered 3,026 toys to 17 agencies in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco and surrounding counties, plus bicycles to several more organizations. ToyMakers of East Lake has always tried to be good stewards of the environment. When making toy deliveries, we recycle banana and tomato boxes that have been donated by Publix Supermarkets, and thereby avoid the need to separately purchase cartons.



Thanks partially to a very generous grant that was received, ToyMakers was able to purchase two new 1HP Powermatic Drill Presses with twin lasers to help accurately pinpoint a spot to be drilled. These drill presses, mounted with custom guide fences that were fabricated by a pair of our volunteers, will allow us to more precisely and efficiently drill axle holes for wheels that are used on the majority of our toys.

We have been told by people at a number of our recipient organizations that wheeled toys encourage mobility and creativity in young children. A couple of our toys are even designed with a handle on the top, so that they can be more easily gripped by a child who might have a hand injury or deformity.



Working with a number of trade sponsors, who are donating a significant amount of their time as well as much of the materials, we are soon installing a more efficient dust collection ductwork system. Just one of the additional benefits would be relocating the noisiest component, a large cyclone vacuum system, outside of the shop proper.

Partner Profile

Mr. Mike Funkhouser, at Sherwin-Williams paint store, located at 11148 Cargo Court, Odessa, FL, just off of SR 54, has been a long-standing supporter of ToyMakers of East Lake. He has been with Sherwin-Williams for 16 years, and in the industry for 26, all in the Tampa Bay area. With 8 grandchildren of his own, Mike knows how a brightly colored toy can brighten the day of a child going through a stressful situation. His store's on-going donation of paint has helped to insure that every one of our 12,000 toys presented to children results in a smile! Even though the majority of Mike's customers are professional painters, he and his crew are more than glad to offer professional advice and materials to the "do it-yourselfers" and "weekend project tacklers". Thank You, Mike, for your valuable assistance to The ToyMakers of East Lake!



www.toymakersofeastlake.org