



ToyMakers of East Lake

"Making Smiles One Toy at a Time"



Toy Stories

Summer 2020 by Angela Li

Workshop Updates

We hope everyone is doing well! In light of the recent turn of events that has forced most of us to stay at home and in the interest of protecting everyone's health, the workshop is not fully open for volunteers. However, even from the comforts of their homes, the Toymakers are still producing toys that will bring someone else a smile. Over 60 volunteers are currently sanding, painting, priming, and preparing toys from their homes. Volunteers drive up to shop door by appointment to pick up work from a small on-site shop staff.

Nothing can hold a Toymaker down. In spite of COVID19, we expect to deliver more than 10,000 toys this year. Our volunteers still have the opportunity to do something of value and make a difference in a child's life.

ToyMaker Profile



Before the COVID pandemic you might have been greeted by her smiling face as you walked into the workshop early Saturday morning or seen her helping new volunteers. You may also know her as Maya. Maya Srinivasan has been serving as a Toymaker since September 2015. She also served as a Student Board Member in both 2018 and 2019.

She was recently recognized for her efforts with the presentation of the Diana Award. The award- in honor of Diana, the Princess of Wales- is awarded to youth annually for their work for social causes or humanitarian work.

And this year, Maya was one of the students honored on July 1, 2020.

Even before this recognition, Maya was given the St Petersburg Mayor's Youth Showcase of Achievement Citizenship and Leadership Award and Congressman Gus Bilirakis' "Hero of the Community" Award.

When asked to name the first thing that came to her mind when she thought of the Toymakers, Maya thought of family. "Toymakers is more than just an organization where I volunteer, it's become a family and supportive group of people who have given me the ability to change my community. I have grown as a leader and a person here, and it's all because of the members of Toymakers who were personally invested in me.", she says.

As part of the World Bachelor in Business Program, Maya will be taking her talents and leadership to the University of Southern California, and then on to Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Bocconi University. Congratulations Maya! We will miss you at ToyMakers of East Lake.

For our friends who are considering a charitable donation, be assured that your gift to the ToyMakers of East Lake will achieve maximum impact, especially during these trying times. We continue to be an all-volunteer non-profit organization, with no paid officers or staff. If you should choose to bless us with a donation, you can do so through our website (www.toymakersofeastlake.org) to donate by PayPal or Credit Card. Checks may be mailed to ToyMakers of East Lake, 2690 Tanglewood Trail, Palm Harbor, FL 34685.

Wishing each of you a safe and healthy future.