



# ToyMakers of East Lake

*"Making Smiles One Toy at a Time"*



## Toy Stories

Fall 2017 by Dan Pearch

We are pleased to report that the ToyMakers of East Lake Open House in November was a smashing success! A record number of visitors toured our workshop, the smaller children who attended were thrilled with our hand-made toys and there was lively bidding at our Silent Auction on the hundreds of auction items displayed. We are tremendously grateful to all the Volunteers and product supporters who assisted in making this our best Open House ever!



In late November, the ToyMakers of East Lake made our fourth quarter delivery of 5,839 toys to sick and needy children, including 35 partner hospitals, clinics, and agencies. In total, we delivered over 18,000 toys this year. In addition, by the end of 2017 our bicycle ministry will have provided more than 500 reconditioned bicycles to veteran's organizations, those with limited incomes and homeless shelters.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, a special community outreach event for children was jointly sponsored by the ToyMakers of East Lake and East Lake United Methodist Church. Families with children were invited to come in and have their children decorate our hand-made wooden toys. Each child worked on a number of toys, knowing that they would be able to keep one as their own, and that the others would be given to needy children. By taking part in this effort, these children learned about craftsmanship and giving. But perhaps even more importantly, they learned about volunteering and the joy to be found in serving others! This was truly a "kid-to-kid" connection.

For our friends who might still be considering a year-end, tax-deductible, charitable donation, be assured that your gift to the ToyMakers of East Lake will achieve maximum impact. We are a strictly volunteer organization, with no paid officers or staff. All donations go toward the production of toys. Please see our website ([www.toymakersofeastlake.org](http://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 joyous holiday season.

Merry Christmas from the ToyMakers of East Lake!

