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For immediate release

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Marines to purchase Toys for Tots with proceeds from America Recycles Day Event

U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Gunnery Sergeant Scott Gibson will be at Mrs. Tiggy Winkles Toy Store on Monday, Nov. 24, to purchase toys with proceeds that were generated from an aluminum can collection drive that took place last Saturday, Nov. 15, for America Recycles Day.

Pima Association of Governments organized the first of its kind event as a way to promote recycling by linking the event with a drive to raise funds, through recycling, for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program. The program provides toys to needy children during the holiday season. PAG was able to bring together the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Mrs. Tiggy Winkle's Toys and Tucson Iron and Metal as key partners to make the event possible.

On Saturday, Nov. 15, the weight of cans collected was 1,280 pounds representing at least 35,000 aluminum cans. The cans generated \$640 in proceeds to use to purchase toys at Mrs. Tiggy Winkles who agreed to provide toys at a discount.

Cans were collected at a number of sites including the Sahuarita Town Hall, the Marana Town Hall (which included a visit from Ms. Pima County), City of Tucson recycling centers and several America Legion and VFW locations. One of the busiest sites was the America Legion Post 66 in Green Valley which also had its annual flea market that day.

"The event, the first of its kind in Tucson, was a great success and many people who weren't aware of the event stopped to say they would participate next year," said Dennis Dickerson, event coordinator and PAG's Environmental Planning Coordinator. "Some brought toys to donate instead of cans or in addition to the cans. About 100 toys were received for Toys for Tots that day."

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Gunnery Sergeant Gibson, regional coordinator of this year's annual U.S. Marine Reserve Toys for Tots drive, said "The funds raised through recycling aluminum cans will be turned into toys and we appreciate the opportunity to participate in this unique effort organized by PAG."

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:

Gunny Gibson will select toys for the program at 2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 24, at Mrs. Tiggy Winkles Toys, 4811 E. Grant Road, Tucson.

Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, air quality and water quality. PAG's staff gather and analyze data, provide accurate information, and coordinate an open and cooperative planning process to promote good decision-making for the region. Please visit www.PAGnet.org for more information.