

Keiser University Campuses statewide collect over \$20,000 in toys benefitting Operation Homefront's Military Families in need

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In a ten day long toy drive ending Dec. 13, Keiser University's 15 Florida campuses collected countless toys valued at over \$20,000 making the holiday season a little more spirited for the children of military families served by Keiser's partner, Operation Homefront. Each campus held a kick-off event with special guests including members of the United States military, representatives of Operation Homefront, community leaders, and Santa Claus.

"This is the second annual toy drive we have held in partnership with Operation Homefront and the continued outpouring of support for the military families they serve is heartwarming and inspiring," said Belinda Keiser, Vice Chancellor of Community Relations and Student Advancement at Keiser University. "With over 20 percent of Keiser University's students being active duty service members, veterans, or military family members, holding toy drives all across the state for this incredibly important cause creates a sense of appreciation, unity and service among our students and staff. On behalf of our 20,000 students and 3,500 employees, we extend our warmest holiday greetings and gratitude to Operation Homefront and all of the American military heroes and their families for their service, honor and sacrifice," she added.

"We are delighted to partner with KU again this year to make the holidays a little brighter for our military families and wounded warriors," said Simone Hoover, Executive Director for Operation Homefront Florida. "For these families, it's not just about the toys, but also knowing that they are not forgotten means so much," she added.

Keiser University has been repeatedly recognized by Military Advanced Education (MAE), the 2014 Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges & Universities, G.I. Jobs and the Guide to Military Friendly Schools, and in the Military Times, "Best for Vets: Colleges 2014" edition, for its quality education and support services provided to Veterans and their families.

Hoover said that because requests for emergency help from Operation Homefront are more than three times what they were last year, the Keiser University partnership and support is invaluable in helping to fulfil their mission.

Operation Homefront: A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Operation Homefront was formed in February 2002. It was developed to support the families of deployed service members immediately following 9/11. Operation Homefront is headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, and has evolved into a major nonprofit.

The target population is American military personnel and/or their families who have unmet needs due to financial hardship, death, injury, or physical or mental detriment as a result of service in Iraq or Afghanistan.