



MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 37, NO. 4
JANUARY 2016

SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

THE R. J. SCHEFFEL STORY

Rueben Jacob Scheffel was a retired grocer living on Rundle Street in the Colonial Village area of southwest Lansing. Wooden toy making for the neighborhood children began about 1959 and continued until his death in 1978 at age 89.

SANTA'S ELVES OF THE TOY PROJECT

Santa's Elves carry on Mr. Scheffel's tradition of making toys. The 'Elves' come from very diverse backgrounds. Engineering: civil, design and mechanical engineers, 2 psychologists, a psychiatrist, data processing and insurance sales, an elementary school teacher, a RN, a die sinker, production scheduler, a former Lansing police officer, an administrative law judge, an attorney, the former director of MSU's archives, former MSU's professors of landscaping, of crops & soil science, a fellow from MDOT and various other backgrounds. None of the toys are sold, all toys are given to 31-32 local agencies to satisfy their 'Wish Lists'. We have little contact with children.

There are no administrative costs. All volunteers donate their expertise and time to the toy project.

L.J.K., 12/10/17

www.scheffel-toys.org



SANTA'S ELVES From left to right: Tom Hazlett, Fred Honhart, Larry Koster, Patrick Scheetz, Darryl Warncke, and Tony Bauer. All are MSU retirees, except for Larry, who is an MSU alum.

Santa's workers make toys for disadvantaged kids

The [R. J. Scheffel Memorial Toy Project](#) provides, without charge, wooden toys, memory boxes, and games, hand crafted by volunteers, for children who are disadvantaged, homeless, needy or in crisis. These volunteers are the "Toy Makers" for disadvantaged children of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties. They work towards a "wish list" provided by the Lansing Salvation Army, CAPS (Child Abuse Prevention Services), Ele's Place, and the Kiwanis Club. Small, unpainted cars are made for children at the Ann Arbor Children's Hospital and the Child Life Dept. and Mary Free Bed Re-Hab Hospital at Lansing's Sparrow Hospital.

You can visit the R.J. Scheffel Memorial Toy Project at 16991 Old U.S. 27 Suite A (N East Street) in Lansing. Volunteers work on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Come for a tour and meet several volunteers who enjoy their volunteer work!! Work ceases each day from 9:45 to 10:15 AM so that volunteers can solve all the "world's"

problems! One night each month, volunteers gather for a meal together with other volunteers and spouses at a local restaurant.

The Scheffel Toy Project relies on contributions to buy materials for making special toys for children in need. It relies solely on volunteers, so there are no salaries. All monetary donations are used to pay for supplies (lumber, glue, nails, paint, wheels, etc.), building rental and utilities to make toys for children. The R. J. Scheffel Memorial Toy Project is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and all donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Volunteers work one, two, or three mornings a week.

From 2011 through 2015, more than 45,664 wooden toys were built by the volunteers. In 2015, 10,746 toys were made, and this was the largest number for any one year in project history. On July 30, 2013, the toyshop suffered a fire and production could not be resumed until January 2014 at a new location.

R. J. SCHEFFEL MEMORIAL TOY PROJECT

Agencies Served in 2011 through 2017

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	7-Year	7-Year	
	Toys	Toys	Toys	Toys	Toys	Toys	Toys	TOTAL	Toys To	
AGENCY	Received	Received	Received	Received	Received	Received	Received		Sparrow	
Salvation Army (Lansing & Holt)	3347	3699	2519	4150	4300	4513	4757	27285		
Anishnaabeg C&F Services - Mt. Pleasant							50	50		
Burcham Hills (Tony)							12	12		
CACS - Headstart - Deb	130	80	50	100	100	100	225	785		
CACS - Headstart - Sharon	460	280	335	450	445	430	743	3143		
CACS - Head Start - Mason, Crystal							40	40		
CAPS (Child Abuse Prevention Services)	103	266	70	147	77	119	82	864		
Cristo-Rey Center				181	220	330	385	1116		
C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, Ann Arbor	695	605		520	440	350	390	3000		
Ele's Place, for Lansing, A.A., Flint & G.R.	30	650	650	282	650	512	508	3282		
East Lansing Police Dept.	30	40	30	46	55	6	40	247		
Forgiven Ministries						32	50	82		
Gilda's Club, Grand Rapids	60	32	80	105	166	260	139	842		
Great Lakes Burn Center - Jackson						75	0	75		
Haven House, East Lansing	113	50	0	52	48	30	42	335		
Kiwanis of Okemos & Marble Elementary				247	170	133	110	660		
Mary Free Bed Hospital, Grand Rapids	20	20	50	61	56	140	79	426		
McLaren Greater Lansing E.R.						350	130	480		
Michigan State Police		30	100	42	50	33	30	285		
MSU Pulmonary & Specialty Clinic				170	250	295	83	798		
Operation Santa - Okemos				81	84	36	0	201		
Refugee Development Center						16	0	16		
Ronald MacDonald House	20	8	0	20	10	15	22	95		
Seven Mile - Welkel (Tony)					80	200	110	390		
Sparrow Hospital, Child Life Playroom	592	437	50	50	120	305	25	1579	1579	
Sparrow Hospital, Pediatric E. R.	1296	1312	875	135	330	100	100	4148	4148	
Sparrow Hospital, E.R. (St. Lawrence)				318	475	495	278	1566	1566	
Sparrow Hospital, Pediatric Rehabilitation				192	140	185	235	752	752	
Sparrow Hospital, Ped. Sub-Specialty Clinic	794	654	45	255	460	400	378	2986	2986	
St. Vincent C. Charities					155	319	175	649		
St. Vincent de Paul	164	690	340	479	551	488	561	3273		
VFW National Home for Children, E. Rapids	139	57	73	35	135	96	30	565		
Other, Discontinued Agencies, etc.	1612	1359	721	928	1179	117		5916		
	9605	10269	5998	9046	10746	10480	9809	65953	11031	
High Volume Toys for 2016 & 2017	2016	2017								
Total Memory Boxes	1686	1494	Fire of					7-Year Average 9422		
Un-Painted Cars =	1236	1224	July 30th							
Step Stools =	482	668	end of							
Helicopters =	417	265	Production							
Tool Boxes =	402	372	for 2013							
Rocking Chairs =	372	293								
Block (Pull) Wagons =	345	389								
Cradles, Large =	337	228								
Games, Tic-Tac-Toe =	294	230								
Games, Peg =	272	220								
17 YEARS OF TOY PRODUCTION,										
2001 - 2017 = 134,000+										