

# COLTS goal: Stuff trolley bus with toys

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Twenty-eight Marines can be seated comfortably in a County of Lackawanna Transit System trolley bus, with space for a few more to stand.

COLTS would like nothing more than to see exactly how many G.I. Joes will fit inside. There is also plenty of room for Barbies, board games, stuffed animals and other toys to brighten Christmas for underprivileged children.

COLTS is asking the public to help "Stuff the Bus" on Tuesday as it attempts to fill a trolley bus with toys for the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.

The bus will be parked on the Spruce Street side of Courthouse Square from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. to collect new, unwrapped toys and books. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

"We just thought we could do something good to help our community," COLTS Executive Director Robert Fiume said of the toy drive, which is a first for the agency. "We are asking people to be as generous as they can."

Depending on the size of the toys, Mr. Fiume guessed it will take at least hundreds to stuff the bus.

Staff Sgt. Dennis Jones, who is attached to the Marine Corps Wing Support Squadron 472 in Wyoming and helps coordinate the Toys for Tots campaign in eight Northeast Pennsylvania counties, offered a somewhat more precise estimate.

"Our vans carry about 500 toys, so a bus would be approximately 1,500 to 1,700," he said.

Regardless of the capacity, Sgt. Jones said the COLTS drive has the potential to collect a lot of toys that will mean a lot of happy children.

"It's a great way for people in the Scranton area to get involved and give," he said.

The Rock 107 Morning Show with DiRienzo and Prospector will broadcast live from Courthouse Square from 6 to 10 a.m. Mr. Fiume said Santa Claus will also be there throughout the day to hand out COLTS giveaways to those who donate.

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