

Dear Fellow Texan

Have you ever waited anxiously in the hospital beside your child's bedside, fearful that the report expected soon from the doctor would not lead to celebration, but unbearable grief? Perhaps you have looked into the eyes of that same son or daughter and realized that no medicine available anywhere could take away their anxiety and restore their joy.

Have you met a child who has been orphaned; whose parents did not make it home because their injuries from the car wreck were just too severe? Perhaps you know a child who has been waiting over ten years to be adopted by a family who will not beat and abuse him, but who will love him unconditionally.

Put yourself in the shoes of too many such children across this great state – hospitalized or marginalized. Their very lives may be under threat; perhaps full recovery or a blissfully happy future are not options that anyone dares hope for. But you and I can nevertheless do something to make this Christmas special and memorable for all.

In November 2009, the Texas State Guard launched its first **Young Heroes of the Guard** Christmas Toy Drive. Our objective then was to bring a moment's happiness and encouragement to every child confined in children's hospitals in the Dallas/Fort Worth area; some of whom would not be with us to celebrate another birthday or Christmas.

Since that modest beginning we have modified our goals and coverage, and now seek to reach every hospitalized and disadvantaged child in the State of Texas with at least one gift this Christmas. Will you join us in this mission?

To this end would you be willing to post one or more notices and place a toy collection drop-box in a location where everyone will see them? The drop-box would be emptied and maintained regularly by a military service-member, so your responsibility would be minimal, but your contribution enormous. Any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

If you want further information on any aspect of this worthy effort, please do not hesitate to email us. If you can assist in this cause, we and the children will be greatly in your debt.

Kindest regards,

For further information contact MSG John Gately - ✉ [johnny.gately@txsg.state.tx.us](mailto:johnny.gately@txsg.state.tx.us)



**TEXAS STATE GUARD**