

Operation Santa Claus

WHEN: Saturday, December 18, 2004

WHERE: Bramlage Coliseum

HOW: "Operation Santa Claus" is a pre-organized group through a local Army Base, Fort Riley, designed to provide toys to military and other local underprivileged youth. The Kansas State Athletics Department contacted the personnel at "Operation Santa Claus" with the idea of collecting toys at a K-State Men's Basketball game. Fans would be admitted for free with a toy or monetary donation. Five hundred game tickets were also provided to Fort Riley families as a holiday treat and a thank you from K-State.

RESULTS: According to the "Operation Santa Claus" representatives, the K-State Men's Basketball game was the best over-all toy drive in their history. In total, 558 brand new toys were donated at the game for an approximate value of \$2,126 along with \$3,995.42 in cash donations.

Subject: Operation Santa Claus a huge success
Date: Wednesday, December 22, 2004 10:48 AM
From: Garry Bowman <gbowman@K-STATE.EDU>
Reply-To: Kansas State University Athletics Department <KSUATHLETICS@LISTSERV.KSU.EDU>
To: <KSUATHLETICS@LISTSERV.KSU.EDU>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 22, 2004
Contact: Garry Bowman, Sports Information Director
Phone: (785) 532-7977
Email: gbowman@ksu.edu

Fort Riley's Operation Santa Claus scores huge success at K-State

MANHATTAN, Kan. - Fort Riley's Operation Santa Claus toy drive during last Saturday's Texas-San Antonio at Kansas State men's basketball game at Bramlage Coliseum was an overwhelming success, officials from the post reported Wednesday.

According to Fort Riley public affairs officer Deb Skidmore, fans attending the game gave overwhelmingly, donating \$3,995.42 in cash as well as 558 unwrapped toys with an approximate value of \$2,126.00 for a total of \$6,121.42 in contributions.

„Fort Riley was so pleased with the donations received for Operation Santa Claus from the K-State's men's basketball game Saturday night,% Skidmore said.
„Manhattan is very supportive of our soldiers and their families especially in light of the war in Iraq. It is nice to have good neighbors. The generosity of K-State and Manhattan will put smiles on many children's faces this holiday season.%

Fans who donated were rewarded with free admission to the game.

Fort Riley's Operation Santa Claus is in its ninth year with soldiers from Fort Riley collecting toys and money to brighten the holidays for families in need at Fort Riley and in the Manhattan area.

For more information on Fort Riley,s Operation Santa, please contact Deb Skidmore at deb.skidmore@us.army.mil

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**KIDS,
BRING A
CAMERA
FOR YOUR
PICTURE
WITH
SANTA WILLIE!**

K-STATE

VS.

TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO

SATURDAY, DEC. 18

7PM

BRAMLAGE COLISEUM

FREE ADMISSION!

WHEN YOU BRING A DONATION OR A NEW TOY FOR

"OPERATION SANTA CLAUS"

TO HELP FORT RILEY AND AREA YOUTH

FOR DETAILS, CALL 1-800-221-CATS!

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