



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Trees for Troops® Receives “Pitch In” Award

CHESTERFIELD, Missouri (August 28, 2013) – Trees for Troops®, the national program of the Christmas Spirit Foundation which provides Christmas Trees to armed forces members and their families each Christmas, has been chosen to receive the 2013 State Farm Pitch In Award for local charities making a difference in the community. The St. Louis Cardinals and State Farm Insurance have teamed up to recognize the local non-profit organization for their unwavering commitment to the community.

Trees for Troops will be honored during a field presentation on Sunday, September 8, 2013, prior to the Cardinals vs. Pirates game at 1:15 pm. “Thanks to both the St. Louis Cardinals and State Farm for your support of military families and the Trees for Troops program,” stated Dustin McKissen, the Executive Director of the Christmas Spirit Foundation. “It’s very encouraging to get this kind of recognition and support from the business community.”

Trees for Troops – a program of the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation in conjunction with FedEx, the National Christmas Tree Association and many state and regional Christmas Tree associations – has received thousands of thank-you messages and photos, many of which are posted at www.TreesForTroops.org and on the organization’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Trees4Troops. In 2012, the program delivered 18,994 free, farm-grown Christmas Trees, bringing the total during the eight-year tenure of the program to more than 122,000 trees. FedEx donated the ground and air delivery of the trees to 65 military bases in the U.S. and Middle East, covering every branch of the armed services.

Consumers supported Trees for Troops by donating funds or by visiting the 32 farm and retail locations across the country that hosted FedEx trailers during Trees for Troops Weekend, which was held Nov. 30-Dec. 2. During Trees for Troops Weekend, consumers were able to purchase and donate trees to be placed on waiting FedEx trailers and delivered to U.S. military bases.

Fundraising to make the 2013 Trees for Troops program possible has already begun. The public is invited to help support Trees for Troops, and each donation will help provide another Christmas Tree as a token of thanks and gratitude for the sacrifices of America's servicemen and women and their families. Donations may be tax deductible. To donate or learn more, visit www.treesfortroops.org.

About the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization that works to recognize and support the true spirit of Christmas for U.S. troops through the **Trees for Troops**® program. The foundation was established in 2005 as the charitable branch of the National Christmas Tree Association and is among fewer than 5 percent of U.S. charities to be awarded the "Best in America" seal of excellence by Independent Charities of America. Trees for Troops was a Top 20 Finalist in the 2012 Joining Forces Campaign, a White House initiative that honors exemplary support organizations for military families. To learn more, visit www.treesfortroops.org or call 636/449-5060.

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