



Contact:

Rick Dungey
314-416-2245

rdungey@christmasspiritfoundation.org

Christmas Spirit Foundation Honors Five with Spirit Award for 2023

St. Louis, MO, March 24, 2023 — The Board of Trustees of the Christmas Spirit Foundation (CSF) has reviewed nominations and named five individuals as recipients of the **Christmas SPIRIT Award** to thank them for their creative and extraordinary support of the Foundation's Trees for Troops® Program. The recipients for 2023 are:

1. Dick Darling, Darling's Tree Farm, Clifton Springs, NY
2. Jennifer Greene, Executive Director, North Carolina Christmas Tree Association
3. Devin Potter, Marine Corps Community Services, Camp Pendleton, CA
4. Betsy Perales, Wahmhoff Farms Nursery, Gobles, MI
5. Sue Greenlaw, Principal, Bethlehem Elementary School, Bethlehem, NH

The Trees for Troops® program has provided a total of 293, 392 free Christmas trees to military members and families. Fresh cut Christmas trees are gathered together at farms and retail lots and then picked up by the program's partner FedEx Freight. They then route them through their distribution centers and deliver them to bases selected by each branch of service. Once the trees are at the base and unloaded, each base determines how/when to distribute the trees to their personnel.

As the Trees for Troops® program continues to grow since it first started in 2005, the CSF Board of Trustees recognize that success of the program depends on many people being involved. They support the program in various ways throughout the year, including sourcing trees to donate, coordinating volunteer efforts to load/unload trees, raising funds to support the program and/or just creating awareness.

In 2018, the Trustees formalized their recognition of individuals/companies for superlative support of the Trees for Troops program. This honor is represented by the **Christmas SPIRIT Award**. "This program's success depends on many people and organizations getting involved," said Wendy Richardson, Foundation Chair. "The SPIRIT Award recognizes, thanks and highlights those who do amazing things for the program."

About the Christmas Spirit Foundation and Trees for Troops

The Christmas Spirit Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization that works to recognize and support the true spirit of Christmas through programs such as the Trees for Troops® program. The foundation was established in 2005.

###