

City of Las Vegas
Office of the Mayor and City Council
Proclamation



- Whereas;* in the fall of 2005, a group of friends from Faith Lutheran Church in Las Vegas worked on a campaign to reach out to the community. In May 2006 the Happy Factory of Las Vegas was born; and
- Whereas;* in March 2010 the group of friends formed their own Las Vegas based Happy Factory and named their new foundation "Toys 4 Smiles" with the goal of making and giving away 500 toys per year to needy children in Southern Nevada; and
- Whereas;* Toys 4 Smiles produced its first toys with only three volunteers and today, Toys 4 Smiles is still operated by an all volunteer staff and has more than 50 volunteers; and
- Whereas;* Toys 4 Smiles has given more than 5,000 toys to Nellis Air Force Base, more than 7,000 toys to Catholic Charities, and more than 15,000 toys to the Clark County School District; and
- Whereas;* Toys 4 Smiles was the winner of the 2010 Jefferson Award for Nevada, which is a prestigious award that recognizes individuals throughout the country who perform great public service; and
- Whereas;* Toys 4 Smiles uses all donated scrap wood, has more than 70 clients, and has about 25 corporate donors in Nevada; and
- Therefore:* we, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Las Vegas, in honor of Toys 4 Smiles Las Vegas, proudly proclaim October 6, 2010, as

"Toys 4 Smiles Day"

Mayor Oscar B. Goodman

Mayor Pro Tem Gary Reese

Councilman Steve Wolfson

Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian

Councilman Steven D. Ross

Councilman Ricki Y. Barlow

Councilman Stavros S. Anthony



ABOUT US... ..

The Las Vegas story begins

www.toys4smileslasvegas.org

How the Toys 4 Smiles Came to Las Vegas. In the fall of 2005, a group of us from Faith Lutheran Church was working on a campaign. The purpose was to reach out to the people in our community.

At the first meeting, I met Lynn Davis, our Communications Coordinator. Discussing various options, she mentioned a new reality show. The show was titled "Three Wishes" and starred Amy Grant. The premise was to go to a city and grant three people their wish.

Wanting to review all our options, I decided to watch the next episode (Little did I know how this would change my life!). That episode was filmed in Cedar City, Utah. The date was November 4, 2005. That night is when I first discovered Charlie and Donna Cooley at The Happy Factory. Their daughter asked Amy for some help to keep the Happy Factory going.

I've always had a heart for kids and I love working with wood. So after the show, with tears on my cheeks, I went to their web site and sent them an email to see if I could help make toys for the needy kids in Las Vegas (Needy kids are not necessarily poor).

In May 2006, I officially became the manager of Happy Factory #34 in Las Vegas, Nevada. My goal was to make 300 - 500 toys a year. The first night we started making toys, we had three people. Bob, Mal and I started making sawdust (They are still with me). It has grown to 50 friends helping when they have time.

My dream of 300 - 500 toys has surpassed 57,000 toys in three and a half years. Check out the places toys have been delivered -- toy deliveries.

Effective March 1, 2010, we decided to form our own Las Vegas based company and established the Toys 4 Smiles Foundation. Same people, toys and goals. Just a new name.

Thanks to God, my wife Mary, Faith Lutheran Church, Charlie and Donna, my life will forever be filled with joy.

Blessings,
'Better Together'
Rex

Submitted at City Council

Date 10/6/10 Item 8



REX A. DOTY
FOUNDER
President

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Justin Timberlake-Shriners

For Children Open (TPC)

Oct. 18-24, 2010

Ticket proceeds split between

Toys 4 Smiles & Shriners

Daily Ground Pass - \$15.00

www.jtshrinersopen.com/tickets

Promo Code - REX