

# ACMC Toy Run



The 2016 ACMC {Arizona Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs} Toy run to benefit Andrea's Closet at AZ Children's Center took place on Sunday December 18. According to event spokesman Marcus, "This is the Arizona Confederation of Motorcycle Club's flagship annual charity event and it is very special to us that we are able to do this. It is a 100% charity that directly impacts the local community in which many of us reside so it really hits home." He continued, "This was the 5th and biggest year of this annual event and as it is every year, it is VERY FAMILY FRIENDLY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVED. We encourage and plan for kids to be present at this event, both from the organizations involved like the kids and families from the AZ Children's Center that were able to come out in person and accept a bike or toy as well as families and kids from the local community that come out to support and be involved in something very special for someone else."

An estimated 800 people gathered between 7am & noon at the Wal-Mart, located at 19th Ave & Bell Rd. in Phoenix. The event is open to the public. New, unwrapped toys are donated. There was a bounce house for the kids, and of course Santa was there for the kids to visit with.

The after-party was in New River. "At noon, all of the Motorcycle Clubs and other riders in attendance assembled in the Wal-Mart parking lot to parade ride from there up to the Road Runner Saloon for the after party gathering. The route was northbound on 19th Ave to Bell Rd. West on Bell Rd. to the I-17 Freeway. North on the I-17 freeway to the New River off ramp. Off at New River and east to the Road Runner Saloon." From Marcus, "Andrea's Closet is our partner organization helping to facilitate the event and distribution of toys

and bikes to the kids at the Arizona Children's Center (Maricopa County Medical Center). All of the toys go directly to the AZ Children's Center for their Andrea's Closet storage room that very day.

"Thanks to great support from the Motorcycle Club Community and the general public, the event was able to collect 1200 toys and 87 bicycles to donate. With the number of children that come through the AZ Children's Center, Andrea's Closet estimates these toys will last 2-3 months for them. The need is great and we hope to increase donations every year."

Thanks go out to, "The ACMC and all of the Motorcycle Clubs that supported and helped make this year the most successful year of this event so far. Kenny and all of Andrea's Closet, who without their help, this effort would not be able to touch so many special hearts of kids in need during the Christmas season. Wal-Mart on Bell and 19th for their continued support and help to make this event successful. Mike at Channel 3 AZ Family News and Channel 5 KPHO local news for their live coverage of the event. All of the local community who came out the cold morning of the event to donate a toy and a smile to a child at Christmas."

Marcus added, "A lot of great people work very hard and have a lot of fun every year with this event. Our partners in this event are, without a doubt, some of the most caring people out there for what they do all year round for the children. We would like to share with you a little info about Andrea's Closet and what they do on a regular basis.

"You may already know this, but Andrea's Closet partners with most of the hospitals in the valley to help bring a little joy and happiness to children who are seriously or terminally ill. Many of these children face serious treatments for illnesses like leukemia, cancer, or burns.

When these children have to undergo a major surgery or treatment, Andrea's Closet helps to comfort and distract them from the fear of the procedure or illness by letting them choose a special gift from a toy filled 'closet' to help comfort them.

"The Arizona Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs partners with Andrea's Closet to help support the Arizona Children's Center at the Maricopa Medical Center for this particular toy run. The Arizona Children's Center provides medical care to infants, children, and adolescents of varying degrees. Many of these kids have terminal illnesses or face serious medical treatments for their illnesses such as the ones mentioned above. Our goal as the ACMC in partnering with Andrea's Closet for the Arizona Children's Center is to try and bring a smile and a better Christmas holiday to as many of these kids as possible during a very scary and uncertain time in their life.

"The ACMC has partnered with Andrea's Closet for five years running to try and help the very special kids at the Arizona Children's Center. These kids may not be able to go home for Christmas to enjoy the holiday with their family and siblings, but together, we may be able to bring them some Christmas cheer while they are in the hospital.

"Thank you for reading, as we thought it was important that you knew what this event is really about and the reason behind it...THE KIDS."

Thank you, Marcus, for all the great information you sent along and to the ACMC for this outstanding effort on behalf of children in our Valley.

Learn more about the AZ Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs {ACMC} via their website <http://www.azcmc.com/>