

Toys For Tots 24th annual Hangar Party



This event is hosted by Chandler Air Service Inc and Chandler Airport Alliance, at the Chandler Air Service hangar, on Ryan Road in Chandler. The 2015 gathering took place on Friday, December 11, from 6-9pm. It is a family-friendly gathering that is open to the public.

The occasion takes place in the CAS airplane hangar, to gather toys and non-perishables for needy families in Chandler. The donations are distributed by the Chandler Compadres organization, which also determines where they need to go.

There were a number of planes on display. Plus, Santa arrived at the party in a 1976 Great Lakes Bi Plane.

The hangar was set up with tables & chairs to accommodate the hundreds who attended. Dinner and drink mixers are provided in exchange for your

donations. You can bring your own bottle, beer, or wine if you would like to drink. Coopers BBQ of Chandler catered the 'all you can eat' beef & chicken dinner.

In addition to the hay bales that were set out to sit on, a bunch of them were also stacked up into a 'Corral' to collect the toy donations.

We learned about this party via our friend Robert, of Evil Twin Custom Cycle and The Unknown Associates. The band has been providing the music for the past 4 years.

They bring extra microphones & instruments and invite the kids up to sing Christmas songs and play music. One of the girls has been participating & playing drums w/ Robert the last 4 years. She's 9 years old now, taking lessons, and really getting into it. An 'Unknown' protégé. Very cool.

An estimated 500 + people attended this function, with some 427 meals served. Thanks to everyone's donations, more than 40 families were assisted by this celebration during the 2015 Christmas Season.

An estimated \$25,000 in toys and foodstuffs were collected from this benefit; over and above the generosity of Chandler Air Service shouldering the expense of putting the gala on in the first place.

The 2016 date is yet to be announced. But it is traditionally held on a Friday night, early in December. Once we know, we'll post it to our calendar. It sounds like a lot of fun and we hope to see you there. Thank you Robert of Evil Twin Custom Cycle and John of Chandler Air Service for your help with this report.

Betsy