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## ANTELOPE VALLEY HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES DONATE 136 BIKES TO TOYS FOR TOTS PROGRAM

(LANCASTER, CA –December 15, 2008)—Antelope Valley Hospital (AVH) employees have developed a reputation for participating in many charitable efforts throughout the year, and this year's holiday season is no exception. The local citizens who benefit from their generosity this holiday season are the many children who will receive bicycles donated by AVH employees through the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program. Marine reservists arrived on Monday, December 15 and picked up **136 bikes**, which were all donated by AVH employees.



Esther Alvarez, SSgt. John Eckhardt, Edward Mirzabegian, SSgt. Quinton Taylor

Esther Alvarez, chair person of the

Frontline Champions, an employee excellence group at AVH, had quickly volunteered the Champions team to coordinate this year's bike drive. The hospital has held the bike drive for six years. Each year the employees attempt to top the number of bikes donated the previous year, delivering joy to local children during the holidays.

"Our employees are endlessly generous," said Alvarez. "Our hospital and its various departments contribute to many causes and help hundreds of families every

(-more-)

year, so I believed that I could count on them to come through with bicycles again. I was right.”

Edward Mirzabegian, AVH Chief Executive Officer, said the bike drive is one more example of AVH employees’ commitment to caring not only for the hospital’s patients, but also for the entire community.

“Making the community a healthier place is part of our hospital’s mission and culture,” said Mirzabegian. “The desire to make a positive difference can be seen in employees throughout our hospital as they go above and beyond their jobs and reach to the community in various ways throughout the entire year.”

The Toys for Tots program exists to deliver new toys to children in need during the holidays. It has been in existence since 1947.

**About Antelope Valley Hospital**

Celebrating more than 50 years of caring for the community, Antelope Valley Hospital, a facility of Antelope Valley Healthcare District, is a non-profit, 420-bed hospital that was founded in 1955. The hospital is dedicated to providing quality care and services to everyone in the Antelope Valley. AV Hospital is located at 1600 West Avenue J in Lancaster, California. For further information, please visit [www.avhospital.org](http://www.avhospital.org) or call (661) 949-5000.

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