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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

CCHS STUDENT RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR HER SERVICE

'Children serving children' is the heartbeat of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation and our very own, Anna Maria Alonso (CCHS Sophomore) is a great embodiment of that endeavor. Selected from a broad pool of applicants, Anna Maria was named as a Youth Ambassador for Toys for Tots in 2022.

"It's truly an honor to be selected for their ambassadorship program," said Administrative Support and Community Service Coordinator, Bonnie Doucette. **"Anna Maria had to apply by filling out a huge packet worth of information and sharing her heart with the organization. She truly earned that position."**

Anna Maria was recently featured on the Toys for Tots official Facebook and Instagram pages, recognized for her contributions to this past year's toy drive. The Pinellas County campaign supported 9,019 children this Christmas season and Anna Maria, amongst others, worked tirelessly to help make that happen. **"I sorted toys, worked the volunteer desk, and helped in staging. Whatever they needed, I was there to help,"** said Anna Maria.

One of her favorite parts of this year's toy campaign was getting to distribute bikes to the families that were receiving them. **"Being able to bless them in that way is something I will never forget,"** said Anna Maria, **"I got to personally meet each of the families and see how grateful they are to receive things I might sometimes take for granted. The Lord has truly blessed me and I am so honored to be able to be his hands and feet, providing for other people what He provided for me."**

Anna Maria was one of several CCHS students to serve at this year's toy drive. Alex Brannon (CCHS Junior) was also recognized for his hard work and dedication by leadership at Toys for Tots. **"Volunteering is important because it gives people the chance to have a better life. It might be tiring to do tons of sorting and bagging, but those kids deserve to be fulfilled,"** said Alex.

Our students are doing more than just meeting the community service requirements for graduation. They are living out 1 Corinthians 10:31 and we couldn't be more proud.