

Riders hoping for big toy turnout



TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

Elaine Lagasse, a member of the American Legion Post 57 Honor Guard, displays a collection box for the upcoming charity ride that scheduled to take place on Saturday.

American Legion Riders Post 57 set to participate in annual 'Toy Run' for charity giving, raffles.

By TONY BRITT

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American Legion Riders Post 57 are looking to add a little more Christmas spirit, gifts and toys for Columbia and Suwannee County children through an upcoming charity ride.

The Riders will be participating in the "Toy Run" that will take place on Saturday.

"Our Riders are putting together a ride that's benefiting Voices For Children, which is the fundraising side of Guardian Ad Litem to impact the most underserved kids as well as the Wellborn Community Association, whose taking care of the underserved children in Suwannee County," said Bill Huggins, American Legion Post 57 Commander.

Huggins has been a member of the post for 14 years and noted that Legion Riders have participated in some type of charity ride to help local youngsters.

"This year we choose to go a different ride in as far as who we're riding for, just to reach children we have not reached previously," he said.

Huggins said there is no way to determine how many motorcycles will participate in the charity ride, but he's anticipating 100-200 motorcyclists to participate in the event.

"The weather impacts it, but once we do the ride, we'll leave the Wellborn Community Association at 11 a.m.," he said. "It will be an escorted run all the way here to the post. Here at the post we'll have a live band, 50/50 raffles, good food as always and we rock out."

The donation boxes are spread between Suwannee and Columbia counties.

The raffles and auction will be at American Legion Post 57, Lake City, after the ride at around 12:30-1 p.m. American Legion Post 57 has assorted prizes from multiple vendors for the charity ride. There will also be a car show at the post at the end of the ride.

Huggins said he and other legion members felt it was important to participate in a ride for the local youngsters.

"The pillars for the American Legion veterans are family, community and youth," he said. "The youth that we're serving are the most underserved. Guardian Ad Litem, when they take a child out of the home, frequently with nothing but the clothes on their back. We're blessed. I have a roof over my head. I don't miss many meals and the same thing can't be said for all of these children, so we do it for the kids."

Huggins encouraged other people to participate in the ride.

"Just come on out and serve. These kids need all the help they can get," he said.