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PRESS RELEASE

TDECU and Combined Arms Celebrate Christmas with Military and Veterans' Families at Operation Santa



Santa meets with child at Combined Arms Veterans Transition Center
Photo courtesy: TDECU

More than 200 local military and veteran families were treated to a special holiday celebration thanks to the efforts of [TDECU](#) and Combined Arms. The 14th annual Operation Santa event was held at Combined Arms' Veterans Transition Center on Sunday, Dec. 17.

The families who had pre-registered for the event were welcomed with hot chocolate, holiday-themed treats and music. While children decorated blank sugar cookies with colorful icing, and lunch bags for Kids' Meals, Inc., their parents gathered the gifts donated during TDECU's toy drive weeks before. Volunteers worked quickly to wrap the gifts and Santa, who made a special trip from the North Pole, took time to hear more of the children's Christmas wishes.

"This initiative isn't just about gifts, it's a testament to our commitment to uplifting communities and spreading joy," said TDECU SVP of Member Experience Tony Warden, who is also a decorated combat veteran. "Our Members and teammates really showed their generosity this year. We are grateful for all of those who take the oath to serve this country, and we are excited to support them during this time of year."



Pictured: TDECU SVP Member Experience Tony Warden
Courtesy: TDECU

In addition to the gifts, TDECU also donated \$30,000 to Combined Arms to support their mission of helping military families and the veterans transitioning to civilian life. To ensure the donations remained local, the TDECU Member Centers in Victoria collected for Combined Arms' Texas Veterans Network sister organization, [Grace After Fire](#), and donations collected in the Dallas-Fort Worth area will benefit [Mission United](#).

"There are veterans who struggle to support their families during the holidays, and that's what events like this are all about," said Mia Garcia, Executive Director of the Texas Veterans Network. "This enables us to let these families know about all the resources available to them. That's why we are so grateful for TDECU. Their support helps us with our mission all year long."



Pictured: Texas Veterans Network Executive Director Mia Garcia
Courtesy: TDECU

TDECU and Combined Arms would like to extend their gratitude to all the volunteers and donors who made Operation Santa possible. Their generosity and selflessness have made a lasting difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

For more information about TDECU and its community initiatives, please visit www.tdecu.org.

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About TDECU | Founded in 1955, TDECU is a not-for-profit financial cooperative with more than 382,000 Members and over \$4.7 billion in assets. TDECU currently has 39 service locations, including 35 Member Centers, and offers a complete selection of convenient, innovative, and competitive products and services, including a full suite of deposit products as well as mortgage, auto and personal loan products, online and mobile banking. TDECU also offers, through its subsidiaries, retirement planning and wealth management, personal and business insurance products. Members can also access a worldwide network of over 55,000 surcharge-free ATMs. For more information visit TDECU.org or call (800) 839-1154.