



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Christmas SPIRIT Foundation Launches Trees for Troops® 2012

***Growers and Farm Families Donate Thousands of Real Christmas Trees to
U.S. Troops and Military Families***

CHESTERFIELD, Missouri (November 13, 2012) – Trees for Troops®, the national program that provides free, farm-grown Christmas Trees to armed forces members and their families each Christmas, is off and running for 2012, with plans to deliver more than 17,000 Christmas Trees to military bases in the U.S. and overseas. Now in its eighth year, Trees for Troops is a program of the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation, working together with FedEx and members of the National Christmas Tree Association and many state and local Christmas Tree associations.

This year's Trees for Troops program kicks off November 20 at Dull's Tree Farm in Thorntown, Indiana, where approximately 300 trees donated by members of the Indiana Christmas Tree Association will be collected and transported via FedEx to service members stationed in Kuwait. In the weeks that follow, thousands of trees will be donated, collected and delivered to more than 60 military bases. Trees are provided through the generosity of Christmas Tree growers, retailers and consumers across the country, with shipping provided by FedEx.

The public is invited to help support Trees for Troops, and each donation will help ensure Trees for Troops can provide another Christmas Tree as a token of thanks and gratitude for the sacrifices of America's service men and women and their families. Donations may be tax deductible. To donate or learn more about how you can help, visit www.treesfortroops.org.

"Being involved with Trees for Troops is truly a gift that gives back," said Nigel Manley, Christmas SPIRIT Foundation chairman. "It's rewarding and meaningful to everyone involved, because it gives us the opportunity to say thank you to our troops, and help ensure military families have the kind of joyful, traditional Christmas memories that we would wish for America's heroes."

“America appreciate the sacrifices military service men and women and their families make each and every day,” said Cline Church, president of the National Christmas Tree Association and owner of Cline Church Nursery in Fleetwood, N.C. “As Christmas Tree farmers, we want to provide a little Christmas spirit and maybe help start a new tradition with military families to be able to experience a traditional Christmas with a Real Christmas Tree.”

Since 2005, Trees for Troops has delivered more than 103,000 Real Christmas Trees to thankful troops and military families. Each year, thousands of trees are donated by Christmas Tree growers (through the National Christmas Tree Association, state and regional Christmas Tree associations) and consumers. FedEx and its team members generously provide shipping to bases in the U.S. and Middle East, through FedEx Express air operations and the FedEx Freight trucking network.

About the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization that works to recognize and support the true spirit of Christmas for U.S. troops through the Trees for Troops® program. The foundation was established in 2005 as the charitable branch of the National Christmas Tree Association and is among fewer than 5 percent of U.S. charities to be awarded the “Best in America” seal of excellence by Independent Charities of America. Trees for Troops was a Top 20 Finalist in the 2012 Joining Forces Campaign, a White House initiative that honors exemplary support organizations for military families. To learn more, visit www.treesfortroops.org or call 636/449-5060.

Media Contacts

DeLaine Bender, Executive Director

Rick Dungey, Public Relations Manager

636/449-5060

info@TreesForTroops.org

Online News Room (additional resources for news media):

<http://www.treesfortroops.org/dnn/NewsRoom.aspx>

###