

# **FACT SHEET: AWB's 20th ANNUAL CAPITOL HOLIDAY KIDS' TREE**

## **What is the Capitol Holiday Kids' Tree?**

The Capitol Holiday Kids' Tree is a charitable project of the Association of Washington Business that benefits children and families in rural communities statewide. AWB members, including large and small employers from across the state, support the program with donations. While the tree is the most visible symbol of this effort, the real joy is in the hundreds of needy families supported through donations from AWB members, as well as any others who wish to donate.

## **When did this program begin?**

The project first started in 1989. That year, AWB raised just enough money to set up the tree.

## **How much money has the project raised since it first began?**

Since 1989, AWB has raised nearly \$300,000 for families who benefit from this project.

## **How much was raised this year? How many AWB members contributed to the effort?**

More than 100 AWB members and individuals from around the state have donated more than \$20,000 toward the project.

## **Where does AWB send the money raised by the project?**

The money goes to rural fire departments in Grays Harbor and Thurston counties. The firefighters deliver Christmas toys and monetary assistance to needy families. This year, the Toysmith Group, an Auburn-based toy retailer, worked with the Toy Industry Foundation to donate \$2,500 worth of toys.

## **What is this year's theme?**

This year's theme is "Wonderland of Books."

## **Who partners with AWB on this project?**

The Washington Forest Protection Association worked with Port Blakely Tree Farms to provide this year's holiday tree from one of their farms in Morton. The Department of General Administration provided the staff to put the tree in place and decorate the tree. The Capitol Campus Volunteers help coordinate this event each year.

Toys were provided through the Toy Industry Foundation and Toysmith, an Auburn-based toy retailer. And, in keeping with the theme, Barnes & Noble partnered with AWB on the event and donated books which will be given to Seattle Children's Hospital.

## **What kind of tree is the Capitol Holiday Kids' Tree?**

It is a noble fir, which is a tree species especially well-suited to oversized decorations.

## **How tall is the tree?**

The tree is 25 feet tall.

## **How long did it take to set up the tree in the Capitol Rotunda?**

Approximately one hour.

## **Who do I contact for more information?**

AWB's Bonnie Millikan at 360.943.1600 or [bonniem@awb.org](mailto:bonniem@awb.org).