



**PORTLAND  
FIRE & RESCUE**



Keith Wilson, Mayor  
AJ Jackson, Interim Fire Chief  
55 SW Ash Street  
Portland, OR, 97204  
Phone: (503) 823-3700  
chief@portlandoregon.gov

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## **RIBBON OF MERIT**

Dean Johnston

For over 110 years, Portland Fire & Rescue, through the Toy & Joy Makers Program, has been putting smiles on children's faces during the holiday season. Dean Johnston has been an integral part of bringing holiday cheer to children and their families for over one-third of that time.

When Dean started, Toy & Joy was helping 500 families a year with both refurbished and new toys. Under Dean's guidance, Toy & Joy now provides new toys to over 3,000 families and 10,500 children. In his time with Toy & Joy, Dean has been instrumental in providing over 1,000,000 toys to 100,000 families and 300,000 children.

When Dean began his involvement as a line firefighter, Toy & Joy was located in the basement of Station 1. During his tenure, Toy & Joy moved from Station 1 to many temporary locations throughout the city core, each identified by Dean. Each move required the entire operation to be disassembled and reassembled at each location. A kitchen area, phone banks, a data entry area, a toy aisle, an area for finished toy boxes, and an area for the families to pick up their boxes were always expertly designed with direction from Dean for efficient use of the available space. These organizational efforts ensured that at the end of the season, all children and families in need were served, and the smiles kept coming. It wasn't until 2005 that Toy & Joy was able to find a permanent home at old Station 40, located in the Cully Neighborhood of NE Portland.

When Dean began his Toy & Joy journey, he was detailed to Toy & Joy through Portland Fire & Rescue. Upon retirement from the Fire Bureau in 1997, Dean assumed the role of President of Toy & Joy Makers, and for the last 28 years, Dean has volunteered his time with the organization, working hand-in-hand with Portland Fire & Rescue in continuing to serve the Portland community.

During his more than 40 years of involvement with Toy & Joy, Dean has exemplified Toy & Joy's mission statement of "promoting the spirit of giving by helping children and their families in our community during the holiday season." For his extraordinary efforts and his leadership of Toy & Joy, Portland Fire & Rescue hereby presents retired Firefighter Dean Johnston with the **Ribbon of Merit**.

AJ JACKSON, Interim Fire Chief  
Portland Fire & Rescue