

NH teen launches toy drive with Build-A-Bear Workshop



Dylan Mahalingam, back row, far right, has kicked off a toy drive in a partnership with his nonprofit Lil' MDGs and Build-A-Bear Workshop. Photo courtesy of Build-A-Bear

Dylan Mahalingam, founder of the New Hampshire nonprofit organization Lil' MDGs, and a sophomore at Pinkerton Academy, kicked off a toy drive this holiday season aimed at New England families and the business community. Lil' MDGs has partnered with Build-A-Bear Workshop for the drive. Proceeds will be donated to the national Marine Toys for Tots Foundation benefiting needy children this holiday season.

The drive was officially kicked off at a "Giving Party" at the Build-A-Bear workshop in Faneuil Hall in Boston.

"Participating in the toy drive is a simple, meaningful, yet ideal way for families and local businesses located in the New England region to give back to the community," said Mahalingam. "It is rewarding to know that these toys will bring joy to these children whose family cannot afford Christmas presents. Participating in the toy drive gives Lil' MDGs the opportunity to bring happiness to many disadvantaged children this holiday season."

The drive continues until Dec. 20. Lil' MDGs invites families and local businesses to share in the holiday spirit by donating new, unwrapped toys, which can be dropped off at any Build-A-Bear Workshop store location during regular business hours.

The mission of the Marine Toys for Tots foundation since its inception in 1947 has been to "bring the joy of Christmas to America's needy children."

Lil' MDGs is a nonprofit that was founded by youth in 2004 in Derry, N.H. Lil' MDGs' mission is to leverage the power of the Internet, digital, and social media to educate, engage, inspire, and empower children in all corners of the world to work together to meet the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals. Lil' MDGs is now an initiative of Jayme's Fund for Social Justice.