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TEDDY BEAR TEA— ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE
The Hawthorne Hotel continues their tradition of giving during the holiday season

Salem, MA, December 2, 2008 – *The Hawthorne Hotel invites the public to their annual Teddy Bear Tea!* This holiday event is guaranteed to please children of “all” ages and gifts are donated to the "Toys for Tots" Foundation.

A Hawthorne Hotel tradition for seven years, the staff is proud and continually amazed at the amount of donated toys that kind-hearted guests drop off. It takes one of the hotel’s meeting rooms to hold them all! Juli Lederhaus, General Manager of the Hawthorne Hotel says, “We are always happy to help less fortunate children and families by hosting this event.” The tea consists of a buffet luncheon with finger sandwiches. All children will have the opportunity to have their picture taken with the Hawthorne Bears.

Just recently celebrating 50 years of service, Toys for Tots began in 1947 when Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. In 1948, Walt Disney designed the Toys for Tots logo, and also designed the first Toys for Tots poster. From 1947 through 1979, Marines collected and distributed new and used toys. On Reserve drill weekends during October, November and December, Marines refurbished the used toys. In 1995, the Secretary of Defense approved Toys for Tots as an official activity of the U.S. Marine Corps and an official mission of the Marine Corps Reserve.

There are still a few seats available for this fun event! Adults are \$21.00 and children 12 and under are \$13.50 or FREE when they bring a "Toys for Tots" donation (new and unwrapped, please and a maximum of two free children per party). Reservations are strongly recommended. Please call 978-825-4311. (Above prices are inclusive of tax and gratuity).

The Hawthorne Hotel was built by the public subscription as a joint venture of the Salem Chamber of Commerce and the Salem Rotary in 1925. Over one thousand people in the area purchased stock in order to create a “modern” hotel. Now, designated a “Historic Hotel of America,” the Hawthorne provides every amenity a “modern” traveler could desire and continues to welcome thousands of visitors every year. The hotel is 15 miles north of Boston and easily accessible from many major routes.

Historic Hotels of America is a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Historic Hotels has identified 191 hotels that have faithfully maintained their historic integrity, architecture and ambiance. To be selected for this prestigious program, a hotel must be at least 50 years old, listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or recognized as having historic significance.

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