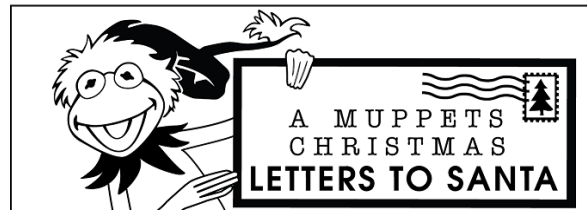


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Delivering Dreams One Letter at a Time *Postal Service and Disney Make Holiday Wishes Come True*

NEW YORK — What do the U.S. Postal Service, the Muppets and Santa Claus have in common? Neither rain nor snow nor heat nor gloom of night will keep them from delivering dreams this holiday season.

Kermit the Frog and Fozzie Bear joined Postmaster General John E. Potter today at the historic James A. Farley Post Office lobby in New York City to kick off the holiday mailing season and the Postal Service's Letters to Santa program.

"The holiday season isn't just the busiest time of the year for the Postal Service — it's our best time of year," said Potter. "For nearly 100 years, the Postal Service's Letters to Santa program has made dreams come true for those in need. This is a time to celebrate how postal employees, charitable organizations and businesses have made a difference in the lives of children coast to coast."

"We're excited to be helping the Postal Service make the holiday special for kids across the country. It's the perfect way to celebrate," said Kermit the Frog. A postmark of Kermit the Frog will appear in the upper right-hand corner of holiday cards and letters mailed throughout the month of December.

"Helping Santa Claus is *always* a good idea, especially at this time of year," added Fozzie Bear, who saluted the Postal Service for 234 years of delivering holiday cheer — and saluted Santa just to be on the safe side.

Letters to Santa is a letter-writing campaign that allows members of the public and charitable organizations to respond to children's letters addressed to Santa Claus, the North Pole and other seasonal characters. New York City's program is the largest in the country with tens of thousands of people adopting letters each year.

"We are delighted to partner with The Walt Disney Company and the Muppets to kick off the holiday mailing season," said Postmaster General Potter. "The Postal Service is gearing up for our annual mail delivery to the North Pole to help Santa and his elves get ready for the big day."

The Postal Service expects to deliver more than 16 billion cards, letters and packages between now and Christmas Eve. The Postal Service also expects:

- 97 million customers to visit the Post Office during the holidays
- 41 million customers to skip the trip to the Post Office and ship online at usps.com
- 192,000 trucks to be used to transport holiday mail, including 142,000 half-ton trucks
- 30 million pounds of mail for overseas military installations, including war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan
- 2.11 billion holiday stamps to be printed

The extended edition of *A Muppets Christmas: Letters to Santa* is now available on Disney DVD. The holiday classic "Delivering Christmas" featuring the Muppets also is available on the holiday-themed *Letters to Santa*

CD for a limited time in select Post Offices across the country.

For more information on the Postal Service's Letters to Santa program and for a list of participating Post Offices nearby, visit usps.com.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations

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A self-supporting government enterprise, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, 150 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars. With 36,000 retail locations and the most frequently visited website in the federal government, the Postal Service relies on the sale of postage, products and services to pay for operating expenses. Named the Most Trusted Government Agency five consecutive years and the third Most Trusted Business in the nation by the Ponemon Institute, the Postal Service has annual revenue of more than \$68 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail. If it were a private sector company, the U.S. Postal Service would rank 28th in the 2009 Fortune 500.