



TOLEDO DISTINGUISHED CLOWN CORPS HISTORY:

Over 33 years ago, Toledo businessman and community leader **Wally Iott**, former Foodtown COO, was approached to re-create the Holiday Parade during the Thanksgiving season. Wally researched the success of other cities in the country for a creative approach to festive parades and discovered the “Distinguished Clown Corps.” (DCC). Local business executives were sponsored by their companies to be a “clown for the day” and march in the parade in a clown costume, and hand out candy and balloons to the many children and spectators along the parade route. Soon after, the Toledo Distinguished Clown Corps was created. In the first year, The Toledo Distinguished Clown Corps, numbered 18 business leaders. Today the DCC membership has grown to over 70 participating members with many of Toledo’s leaders marching over the last 33 years.

Gene Wos, an original clown from year one and long time managing partner for Ernst & Young was Wally’s predecessor of the DCC. **Bob Savage, Sr.**, who was one of the original clowns, became the third Chairman 19 years ago. Currently, the Co-Chairman of the DCC includes **Keith Burwell**, President/CEO Toledo Community Foundation, **Joe Napoli**, President/CEO of Toledo Mud Hens and Walleye Hockey and **Mike Hart**, President/CEO of Hart and Associates.

The Mission is Simple:

To bring smiles and laughter to the faces of 1000’s of children and spectators lining the Toledo parade route. Our job is to have fun and cause happiness!

Becoming a member of DCC is easy. Return the attached Response Form. We will make you a clown suit, exclusive for your use. You can choose your color for your suit. Wigs will be provided. The make-up team, consisting of students from The Toledo School for the Arts; will be available on parade day to apply make-up. ***Parade day is Saturday, November 12, 2022***

Pre-parade, all clowns are invited to ‘Balloon School’ to learn how to make colorful animal balloons to delight the children lining the parade route. The kids love the balloons and seem to favor them to candy. We encourage you to be a “Balloon Clown.”

Following the conclusion of the parade, clowns are invited to entertain at the Imagination Station, or travel on to various non-profit venues to distribute candy and gifts to the many children located there. A portion of the proceeds for this event support The Toledo School for the Arts, Aurora House, Beach House and Family House.

Being a clown is an enormous amount of fun. You meet other upbeat, excited business leaders, from many different companies, and you have a chance to make important new friends. A list of last year’s clowns is included. Join us. You won’t be disappointed. We promise!