St. Nicholas children meet St. Nick at annual holiday bash

By Karen Rider
Resident Community News

For the third year in a row, local businesses brought holiday spirit to families living in the St. Nicholas neighborhood. On Dec. 14, excited children and their parents began lining up at St. Nicholas Towne Station well before Santa’s 5:30 p.m. arrival to enjoy Jolly Christmas at St. Nick’s.

In addition to sharing their Christmas wishes, the children chose a toy. Everyone was invited to enjoy hotdogs, drinks, cotton candy and cookies, and the kids worked off their energy in the bounce house.

The fun neighborhood event was sponsored by Sylvia Pallas of Havana-Ice Café and the Cuba Libre Nightclub and her sons, Des, Rene and Danny Pallas, eMed Multispecialty Group, who provided the bounce houses, food and hundreds of toys. Louis and Joseph Joseph, owners of Mudville Grill, made Santa’s visit possible.

Other sponsors were Dr. Susan Shelton and Eric Dempsey, Sr., development director, St. Francis Animal Hospital; Jill Merc, Jill Merc Realty; Susan Gilbert, manager, Kohe Flowers; Todd Tomaski, owner, and Tim Wilson, manager, Tom’s Printing; and Elizabeth Ondruszek, P.A., and the staff at Elizabeth Ondruszek Law Firm.

“Jill Merc is the project manager of this event,” Ondruszek said. Merc also served as Santa’s helper and doorkeeper.

Some parents, as well as children, came dressed for the occasion as elves or reindeer. A photographer took free photos to create a Christmas memory for each child’s family.

As one child entered the house to talk with Santa, a woman shouted to him to tell Santa that she wanted a big house on the river. Proof that you’re never too old to believe in the magic of Christmas, thanks to neighborhood merchants and businesspeople who care about the families who live in St. Nicholas.

Heather Moore, CAP board chair and host of the event, with Dr. Mark Gold and Susan LeMasters

New Curators Society holds inaugural reception

The Cathedral Arts Project’s Curators Society, founded in recognition of CAP’s 25th anniversary, held an inaugural reception Nov. 9, hosted by CAP Board Chair Heather Moore.

The gathering featured a special performance by CAP alumnus Armando Atanaza, now a senior violist at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, providing a firsthand account of the proven significance the program has on its students.

The Curators Society recognizes donors who show their dedication to ensuring every child has access to an arts-rich education through a three-year annual commitment of $1,000 or more. The Curators Society is inspired by the belief that its stakeholders possess the transformative power to curate quality arts learning that empowers students to analyze, innovate and create.


Jill Merc welcomes neighborhood children to the 3rd Annual Jolly Christmas at St. Nick’s.

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