



Holiday happenings

Back by popular demand . . .



Members of the Clarendon Hills Chapter coordinated the See Santa Party.

On Saturday morning, December 5th, about 800 children and their parents gathered in the Kaczmarek Community Room for the Auxiliary's annual holiday party for children at the Clinic – and Santa wouldn't have it any other way!

It seems no matter how cold the temperatures (that day, they were in the low 30s) or how long the line (at times, it wrapped all the way down Fullerton to Central Park) or how weary down Fullerton to Central Park) or how weary the parents, the experience is well worth the effort! One need only look at the excited faces of the children as they enter the door to the Community Room to see how thrilled they are to have a personal audience with Santa. Some come well prepared with wish lists in hands; others seem to prefer to make their requests a bit more "off the cuff" – all of them, though, enjoy the wonderful holiday experience provided each year by the IWS Auxiliary.

This year, each child received a gift bag filled with books, toys, games and candy canes. The Auxiliary also provided cookies for the children, and photos were taken of the kids on Santa's lap – pictures certain to hold a place of honor on the family mantle during the holidays!

This event is symbolic of so much about our Auxiliary – an organization whose members extend helping hands and warm hearts to the families served at the Clinic throughout the year. Like Holiday Special Gifts, the See Santa Party brightens the holidays for our patients, and so many of them tell us at the party how much their children look forward to this event every holiday season.

We thank Lisa Deering and the Clarendon Hills Chapter for coordinating arrangements for the party this year. They've done so for several years now, and we appreciate their loyalty to this important community outreach. We also very much appreciate the nearly year-long efforts of Elise Klein who spearheaded the gift collection for the children's bags. From all reports, they were delighted not only with their gifts but with the opportunity to spend some all-important face time with Santa. Last but not least, we extend thanks to our Santa Claus, Mark Danly, who proved to be a huge hit with parents and children alike!

