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## A Very Merry Christmas at the Boys Ranch

By Brad L. Klug, CEO of RTC



Each and every year, the [Rabiner Treatment Center](#) (RTC) Christmas party provides a wonderful opportunity for our boys, their families, RTC staff and our guests to celebrate the holiday together! This year's party was no exception. On Sunday, December 8, 2013, we filled the gym with our extended RTC family, sharing the spirit of Christmas with each other.

As you can see by the accompanying pictures, the gym "halls" were "decked" to the max. This year's decoration theme was *A Magical Christmas*. Those who attended really experienced the magic of the holidays. The gym was decorated with magic wands, magician's hats and other items that fit the magical motif.

The party was kicked off by ISPA President Eric Snyder (Ames) placing a special law enforcement ornament (provided by Pat Cooper-St. John, Davenport), on the tree to officially open the festivities. After hanging his special ornament, Eric received a handmade ISPA/RTC keepsake ornament.

Mr. Simon and Mr. Kelleher (RTC teachers) coordinated this year's RTC choir. The choir did a great job of leading the audience in several Christmas carols. Mr. Carlsen (RTC teacher) and his computer class prepared a PowerPoint presentation to visually walk attendees through the past year's events at RTC.

Following the entertainment, "special guests from the North Pole" joined our party. Santa Claus and one of his elves helped distribute the boys' gift bags, which were packed full of gifts and goodies. We really appreciate Santa and his elf traveling all that way from the North Pole!



RTC CEO Brad Klug (right) presents ISPA President Eric Snyder (left) with the traditional RTC Christmas ornament.

The number of attendees was a true reflection of the wide-spread support and commitment of the ISPA, the ISPAA, the Fort Dodge community and our staff. Board members from the ISPA and ISPAA Executive Boards and the Rabiner Treatment Center Board were in attendance. Also present were past presidents of the ISPA and ISPAA boards. We had quite a few of our boys' families in attendance, making our party a real family affair.



*An RTC client receives a bag of presents from Santa.*

Generosity was abundant again this year. The RTC Board of Directors, along with Brad and Elaine Klug, donated funds to purchase a couple new pedal go-carts for the boys. In addition, two very special "Secret Santa" families purchased and wrapped presents for *all* the boys. What a touching and thoughtful expression of the Christmas Spirit!

Pat Cooper-St. John, past president of ISPAA, also continues to be a bright spot in our Christmas celebration. The boys were thrilled with their gift of a McDonald's gift card that each received from Pat and her husband, Jim.

The smiles on the faces of all guests (especially our boys) are moments to be cherished. On behalf of the boys and staff, we thank everyone for their participation, help and support. We look forward to seeing you at next year's party!