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RABINER ROUND-UP — A very merry Christmas at the Jerry Rabiner Memorial Boys Ranch

By Brad L. Klug MSW, 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 4, 2016, we filled the gym with our extended RTC family, sharing the spirit of Christmas with each other!

The gym "halls" were "decked" to the max! Those who attended really experienced the *magic* of the holidays! The gym was decorated with Christmas trees, ornaments and various other decorations. Bob and Karen Thode (Fort Dodge) donated a couple of air-powered displays that added so much to the holiday décor!

The party was kicked off by Iowa State Police Association (ISPA) President Todd Thoeming (Davenport) placing a special law enforcement ornament on the tree to officially open the festivities. After hanging his special ornament, Todd received a handmade ISPA/RTC keepsake ornament. Mr. Simon and Mr. Kelleher (RTC teachers) again coordinated this year's RTC choir. The choir did a great job of leading the audience in several Christmas carols. Troy Levenhagen (a former RTC boy), provided some "magical" entertainment for the gym full of boys, staff and guests. Another former boy, Toby Welsh, was in attendance with his family and was responsible for setting up and sponsoring Troy's magic show. Following the entertainment, a special guest from the North Pole joined our party. Santa Claus came and helped distribute the boys' gift bags, which were packed full of gifts and goodies. We really appreciate Santa traveling all that way from the North Pole!

The number of attendees continues to be a true reflection of the wide-spread support and commitment of ISPA, ISPAA, the community of Fort Dodge and our staff. Members from the ISPA, ISPAA, RTC Boards 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.

Generosity was abundant again this year. The RTC Board of Directors and I donated funds to purchase new go-carts for the boys. Dick Turnquist (ISPA past president, Davenport) and his wife, Elva, purchased footballs, basketballs, soccer balls and volley balls for all the programs. The boys have already been put them to action! Diane Reid (ISPAA past president) and her daughter, Linda, brought goodie bags for every boy, carrying on the tradition established by Diane and her late husband, Ron (ISPA past president). Holly Fraley (ISPAA past president, Sioux City) brought in homemade Christmas caramel apples for all our boys. They were beautiful and delicious!

In closing, 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!

Photos from left to right, top to bottom:

1. RTC CEO Brad Klug and ISPA President Todd Thoeming
2. Levey the Great (Troy Levenhagen, former RTC Boy)
3. ISPA Past President Dick Turnquist and Levey the Great
4. ISPA and ISPA Board Members (past and present)
5. A very happy Christmas memory
6. Santa and his elves

