

# Santa Claus visits Boardman Senior Center for breakfast

By **JADE McDOWELL**  
Staff Writer

Santa Claus is best known for late-night escapades fueled by midnight snacks of cookies and milk, but he can draw a crowd even for a breakfast appearance.

It was a full house at the Boardman Senior Center all morning Saturday at the Boardman Kiwanis Club's fifth annual Breakfast with Santa.

Volunteers in the kitchen kept the pancakes coming, while families took pictures with Santa Claus, made Christmas ornaments and took rides on a horse-drawn carriage outside.

Anna Browne said she has been taking her children to the event since it began.

"It's a fun activity and the kids enjoy it," she said.

Browne said the nice thing about living in a small community like Boardman is that at events like the Breakfast with Santa, most people know each other.

"It's a really fun community activity because everyone is here and you get to see everyone and celebrate the season," she said.

Browne said she was grateful for the Boardman Kiwanis Club for gathering sponsors and putting together the event. The club goes above and beyond what many small-town Kiwanis Clubs do in order to make sure children have a safe place to celebrate various holidays, she said, and people don't always appreciate how much work that takes.

Children who took part in the event got a few mementos besides their memories of meeting St. Nick. A table off to one side was filled with clear plastic balls, sparkling tinsel, candy and stickers that children could use to make their own unique Christmas ornament. Children who took a photo with Santa also got handed a bag of Christmas goodies, with the promise that their photo would be emailed to their parents later.

Karen Pettigrew, who was selling tickets at the door, said she enjoys volunteering for the event each year to give local families more things to do in Boardman.

"I just like to see all these families come out for a nice event in town," she said.

Shari Stokoe said it was her first year volunteering at the event after joining Kiwanis two years ago, but she was enjoying it so far. Her favorite thing, she said, was seeing all of the cute little kids dressed up in Christmas outfits.

"Kiwanis does a lot of raising money for kids in town, but this is one where we get to be involved directly with the kids," she said.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

Luz Gutierrez, right, stuffs tinsel into an ornament next to her brother Alberto Gutierrez and Maria Richards, left, during Boardman's Breakfast with Santa.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

Marissa Sorensen, 9, sits on Santa's lap during Boardman's Breakfast with Santa.



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Angie Bravo, left, feeds her daughter Melanie during Boardman's Breakfast with Santa on Saturday.

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