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Many heartfelt thanks to everyone (volunteers and attendees) that helped make my 5th Annual Holiday Party for Town of Verona residents on December 14th a huge success! Fabulous volunteers worked together to make this event happen and festive attendees shared the Christmas holiday spirit. Some pictures from this event can be found on my website: www.fritzscherz.com

Thanks to the following people for taking part in the programmatic portion of the event (listed in order of appearance): Mike Jaquays (Bingo the Clown) for face painting; Trooper Buzzard and K9 Wilder (both from the New York State Police) for interacting with the attendees and showing some of K9 Wilder's abilities; Spencer Walker for playing Christmas songs; the following Christmas story readers: Honorable Ken Blankenbush (New York State Assemblyman), Honorable Rob Maciol (Oneida County Sheriff) and Honorable Frank Coots (New York State Police Captain); Gary Johnson for playing Christmas songs; Matt Episcopo (of Matt Episcopo Comedy & Magic) for the family - oriented magic show; Santa Claus for giving gifts to the children; and Jason Barady for playing Christmas songs.

Thanks to the following people for helping in a variety of ways: Danette Allen, Ann Ammann, Kristine Bellino, David Belvick, Sean Brown, Megan & Jennifer Centore, Jennifer Clark, Jacqueline Cole, Kim Coons, Rachel Dunne, Frank Elias, Todd Emanuelli, Chuck Fougner, Martha Group, Jeff Hull, Bill Keeler, Mark Kinne, Kim LeBlanc, Jeff Monaski, Pete Richardson, Stuart Seibel, Fred & Sue Stefanik, Rick & Heidi Walker, and Tami Whooten.

Thanks to the following businesses and/or organizations for donating baked goods and/or gifts or simply helping out: Dunkin' Donuts (Verona), KidzClub, New York State Police, Nice N Easy Grocery Shoppes, Oneida County Sheriff's Office, Oneida Indian Nation SavOn, Out of The Cage Pet Mobile, Price Chopper (Oneida), Recovery Sports Grill, Stampede Steakhouse, Staples (New Hartford), Utica Coffee, Walmart (Oneida) and the media that helped publicize the Holiday Party.

Thanks to the Verona Fire Department for providing the venue for the Holiday Party and for helping make Santa's arrival special. Special thanks to my wife, Kathy, and our children, Katherine, Marissa, and Freddy for being so supportive, encouraging, and helpful during the weeks leading up to the Holiday Party and during the event itself.

In closing, the bottom line is that so people worked together to make this event happen. It is people like you that make a community great! I am so honored to call these great people my friends and Verona my hometown! Thank you!!! Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!!!