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Many heartfelt thanks to everyone that helped make my 4th Annual Holiday Party for Town of Verona residents on December 8th a huge success! Great volunteers worked together to make this event happen and festive attendees shared the Christmas holiday spirit. Thank you all! Some pictures from this event can be found on my Facebook page (www.facebook.com/fritzscherz), my Twitter feed (www.twitter.com/fritzscherz) and on my website: www.fritzscherz.com as well.

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 Eric Knapp, K9 Kenny, and Trooper Chris Taylor (all of the New York State Police) for interacting with the attendees and explaining some of K9 Kenny's abilities; Root Farm Vaulters (for their vaulting demonstration), Spencer Walker and Owen Walker (for playing Christmas songs), New York State Senator Joe Griffo, New York State Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and New York State Police Captain Frank Coots (all for reading Christmas stories); Matt Episcopo (of Matt Episcopo Magic for the family –oriented magic show); Santa Claus (for giving gifts to the children); Oneida County Sheriff Rob Maciol (for reading a Christmas story); Roy Coston (for playing a Christmas song) and Ryan Geer for playing and singing some Christmas tunes).

Thanks to the following people for helping in a variety of ways: Barb & Steve Allen, Danette & Jeff Allen, Linda Scherz Allen, Ann Ammann, Jennifer Centore, Jennifer Clark, Connie Collins, Kim Coons, Andrew Derminio, Rachel Dunne, Frank Elias, Todd Emanuelli, Shirley Garcia, Martha Group, Jon Hluska, Jeff Hull, George Joseph, Bill Keeler, Mark Kinne, Mark Klossner, Chris Mariotti, Marie Sayles, Margaret Schelle, Craig Semans, Kim Senn, Ron Spadafora, Fred & Sue Stefanik, Russ & Mary Walker, and Tami Whooten. Thanks to everyone who brought a canned good for the Verona Food Pantry, too!

Thanks to the following businesses and/or organizations for donating baked goods and/or gifts or simply helping out: Adirondack Basketry, Dunkin' Donuts (Verona store), Freihofer's, Hershey Ice Cream, Joel's Steakhouse, KidzClub, New York State Police, Nice N Easy Grocery Shoppes, North Star Orchards, Oneida County Sheriff's Office, Out of the Cage Pet Mobile, Price Chopper (Oneida), Recovery Sports Grill, Root Farm, Staples (New Hartford store), 31 Express, Utica Coffee Roasting, VVS FFA, 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 daughters, Katherine and Marissa for being so supportive, encouraging, and helpful during the weeks leading up to the Holiday Party and during the event itself.

In closing, so many people worked together to make this event happen. It is people like you that really make a community special! I am so honored to call these great people my friends and Verona my hometown! Thank you!!!