



January 11, 2010

Dear Santa's Helpers,

Wow, what a year! We are so blessed that our volunteers and donors came through for our patients at Christmas. I must admit we were anxious that the economy and the flu season would affect the level of giving but we should have known better—Batson supporters are the best! The patients had a wonderful Christmas with the help of your thoughtfulness and generous donations.

Santa Claus got an early start on the morning of Christmas Eve. He first went to the nursery where he passed out rattles to about 30 newborns. Next, he made a special visit to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and took pictures with the families who were visiting their babies. Then, he went to Bone Marrow Transplant Unit and the 4 South where he heard there were children. He finished his visit at Children's Hospital by going room-to-room to see every patient. Each child received a bag full of toys and clothes hand picked by Santa's elves to ensure that each one received what they wanted. In all, Santa visited with 86 children and their families.

Batson's time-honored tradition of Santa visiting its patients first surprised both the children and their parents. A three year old little boy was overjoyed when Santa came into his room. He kept looking at Santa and saying, "Thank You" as each gift was presented to him. His smile was priceless! All of the children were more than excited and yes, there were tears shed by moms and dads as they witnessed the generosity from our community. One mom burst into tears as she held her 1 year old baby and all she could say was, "See baby, Santa did not forget about you!" Please know that your gifts made a difference in what Santa was able to provide for our patients. We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you for supporting the Children's Hospital and the Santa bag program. Words cannot express what your involvement with the hospital means to all of our patients, families and staff. We thank you and wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Lott  
Child Life Coordinator