

Breakfast with Santa



By Melissa Alexis Jacobsen

Ever wonder what Santa eats for breakfast? Pancakes and sausage! At least, that's what's being served this year at Georgetown's annual Breakfast with Santa. The event is held at the Community Center in San Gabriel Park on Saturday, December 13 from 7:30-11:00am. Everyone is encouraged to make a date to help break the 2013 record of 1100 individuals eating breakfast with Santa!

Sponsored by the Sun City Rotary Club in conjunction with the Georgetown Fire Department and the Georgetown Independent School District, the event is always popular, and record crowds are expected. All money raised helps bring Christmas to families in need right here in Georgetown. This year's recipients have

*This holiday season,
share Christmas cheer
with families in need.*



been selected and gifts will be provided to 161 children in 53 families.

Jan Williams, Director of Extended School Enrichment from Georgetown Independent School District, has been involved in the program since its inception in 2001. Jan loves "seeing the smiles on the children's faces and the tears of joy and gratitude from the parents." She gets the project rolling by searching for those in need. Counselors in the district schools aid the process by

providing information. Once the kids and their families are identified, the parents get involved by providing specific needs and wants, as well as, clothing sizes all the way down to shoe sizes for each child. Then personal shoppers (Rotarians and other helpers) take over and pick out individual gifts. These bargain hunters know how to stretch a dollar while still providing exactly what's needed for each youngster. The final result is over 800 gifts purchased, grocery cards for each family as well as food and movie gift cards for teenagers.

Next comes the wrapping. As Rotarians, spouses and volunteers meet the week before the breakfast, they use a system that keeps family gifts together. The workers spend hours carefully wrapping and labeling each present. This year's selected families will pick up their gifts either before or after enjoying breakfast and talking with Santa.

The event started in 2001 in one of the old Georgetown fire stations. Four families with a total of ten children were helped, that first year. At first, Santa personally delivered all the gifts out of a fire truck. However, the event has grown so large, presents are now sent home with participating families after breakfast. Last year, 151 children from 56 families were able to celebrate Christmas as a direct result of this event.

Firefighters cook pancakes and sausage, which are served with juice and coffee by the Rotarians. All kids get their pictures taken with Santa.



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Tickets are only \$6, and everyone is invited to attend. This festive event also includes at least one fire truck for children of all ages to explore.

Last year, the Sun City Rotary Club was the recipient of the Rotary International Significant Achievement Award for their Breakfast with Santa project. This prestigious award, signed by the International President of Rotary organizations worldwide, recognizes a club that has truly made



a difference in its community. John Chenoweth, Sun City Rotary Breakfast with Santa Chairman, delights in “making a real difference in the community. The excitement on the children’s faces makes it all worthwhile. It’s nice to be part of an event that truly makes a difference and touches lives in such a positive way.” In addition to providing help in Georgetown, significant cash contributions to the Christmas Outreach program help families in nearby Jarrell,



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Texas. Major funds are raised through business donations, sponsorships, Rotarians, and individuals.

Tickets for breakfast are available at the door or may be purchased in advance from the Sun City Rotarians and the Jarrell Lion's Club. For more information, contact John Chenoweth with Sun City Rotary at sun-city-rotary@suddenlink.net. •



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