

# Even the 'Big Man' Showed Up!

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY MARY JUSTINE LAYTON

Editor

They gathered together in their community room to celebrate Christmas as a family. The residents of Grandview Towers were treated to a holiday party as part of Project Santa, a collaborative effort between a number of mountain agencies.

Last year, Dave Stuart, executive director of Hearts & Lives, said, a few residents were the lucky recipients of gifts. The others had a question: What about me?

Stuart didn't want that to happen again. Cheryl Nagy, who until just recently has served as the director of community outreach at Hearts & Lives, worked with Annette Fields, the manager at Grandview Towers. They struck a deal with Arturo Rodriguez, who provided a lunch of enchiladas, rice and chicken, which the residents thoroughly enjoyed.

Following the lunch, each resident received a gift



Santa greeted all the guests—including Donna Lascelles and Glen Bennett—prior to distributing their gifts.

From Santa—a Kozi Buddi fleece provided by Judy Diamond at LEC Toys in Crest

line. Both Rodriguez and Diana, Stuart said, gave Santa incredible deals on the food and gifts. As the residents opened their gifts, Fields extended a



Sharon Steere was delighted to open her gift.

special thank you to Nagy and her team. "This is a huge blessing," she said. "It has brought the residents great joy."

But the party didn't stop there. As the guests left the community room to return to their apartments, each one was handed a reusable bag to "go shopping" for groceries. That food—corn, fruit

cocktail, tuna, catfish raisins, cookies, cranberry soup—was purchased with money donated by Supervisor Neil Derry and Mountain Kids Christmas.

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