



Connecticut Society of Santas

Club News

CtSocietyofSantas.org

AUTUMN 2022

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CTSS IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE UPCOMING ANNUAL WORKSHOP!

The *Connecticut Society of Santas 12th Annual Workshop* will be held on Saturday, October 29th, 2022 at the *Independent Day School* in Middlefield, CT.

Registration information is in your emails and also on the website. Please see the current schedule of events below.

- * 8:00 am – 9:00 am: **Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- * 9:00 am: **Opening Remarks** by *Santa Bill Dexter*
- * 9:15 am – 10:00 am: **Understanding Child Development to Create Better Memories** – *Santa Nick Gillotte*
- * 10:15 am – 11:00 am: **Formal Santa and Mrs. Claus** – *Tailor Extraordinaire Margo Stuart*

- * 11:15 am – 12:00 pm: **Working with Christmas Characters** – *Panel Discussion lead by Santa Bill Dexter, Martin the Elf and Jacqui Kuzmik*
- * 12:00 pm – 12:45 pm: **Lunch**
- * 12:45 pm – 1:30 pm: **Looking professional for the camera** – *Santa Duck Unitas*
- * 1:45 pm – 2:30 pm: **Santa in the Virtual World** – *Santa Alex Dembski and Santa David Sizemore*
- * 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm: **Open Forum for Q and A and Wrap Up**

**Events, schedules and presenters subject to change.*

Please join us for an informative and fun day!

SANTA'S SPOTLIGHT: INTRODUCING OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT

By David Daniels

Our new *Vice President of CTSS, David Sizemore*, has been a professional Santa since 2018. Inspired by his uncle, *Frank Carfora*, who served as the family Santa during holiday celebrations as well as

for local civic groups, Santa David began donning the red suit pro-bono in 2012, which included family as well as school related events, in order to raise money for the *St. Jude Foundation*. In April 2018, Santa David attended the *International*

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For more information visit our website at CtSocietyofSantas.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Santa Bill Dexter

Autumn Greetings to you all!

The crisp air is a harbinger of things to come. May the Season be kind to us all as we move forward to create memories which will last a lifetime. *The magic is almost upon us.*

2022 has thus far been productive in spreading the CTSS message. Multiple local food drives, with our CTSS banner prominently displayed, have been held. Two separate "Photos with Santa" events are scheduled for November. Santa's are planning many yet to be scheduled Hospice visits. Circle of Care, a non profit organization dedicated to supporting families stricken with cancer, has received our assurances that CTSS is ready, willing and able to provide home and facility visits when needed. *Christmas Village*, Torrington's iconic institution, will be reaching out to us soon. Our community outreach has grown and continues to grow.

Our 2022 *Workshop Event*, being held in Middlefield, CT, will no doubt enrich our collective knowledge. As a result, we can all

become better holiday characters.

This Organization is yours. Everything we accomplish is through volunteer efforts. From our inception, we have had a core group of dedicated members who make things happen. The core group needs your help. When the call goes out to fill volunteer positions, volunteer. Help us grow. The world needs us, our communities need us and CTSS needs you.

Details continue to be worked out for our *Workshop Event*. Interesting topics, a beautiful setting, good food and great people. A special raffle will be held for an overnight stay at Thomaston's finest Bed and Breakfast, The *David Plume House*. A most generous donation from *Don and Karen Lamy*.

SANTA CARES PRESENTATION CHECK

By Santa Duck

Handing over funds collected for an organization is one of our Santa duties. It also provides a photo opportunity for both CTSS and the organization you support. A great photo op requires a great photo prop to properly present the donation.



To that end I have designed a simple, prop check you can print out in advance onto legal size paper. You can print it at home or any place that can print from the provided PDF file. Staples, *FedEx Service Centers* or your local print shop can get it done for a few cents.

Once printed, trim the excess off the top and bottom (or just fold it over) on the dotted lines. Use a fat marker to fill out the information and you're good to go. Make sure you write large, bold and clearly so it photographs well. Then take your publicity photos holding the check as you give it your organization of choice. Please make the effort of using this as it adds visual impact to the handover ceremony.

Log in to download from the CTSS website;

<https://www.ctsocietyofsantas.org/santa-cares/>

SANTA FOR SPANISH SPEAKING CHILDREN

By David Daniels

Not everyone is bi-lingual and for new Santas, this may pose a dilemma. I had a particularly good text from *Will Childs* who has been a mall Santa in an area that has many Spanish speaking children. The question I had was, if Santa is a multi nationally known identity in each of the countries he visits should he not know the language? If we meet a child who doesn't speak English at all, what should Santa do?

Firstly, remember, "Don't Panic!"

As performers we know how to use Santa Magic, to use body language and some sign language and a few more, will get us by. Here in America most immigrant children know enough English that popular

English toy names are universal. For example, Lego.

Just use English. There's always a kid from Moldova, or someplace else, so speaking some Spanish can be very helpful. Here are a few useful phrases to get you by:



"Have you been a good boy?" —
"¿Has sido un buen niño?"

"Have you been a good girl?" —
"¿Has sido una buena niña?"

"What do you want for Christmas?" —
"¿Qué quieres para Navidad?"

Having a free translation app on your cell phone from google can be used as well on those Spanish phrases, just memorize a few sentences.

Maybe learn the words for *Mom, Dad, grandma, grandpa, dog, cat, doll, good, bad* and *maybe*. Also, having a few common phrases laminated off to the side where a child can't see, but you can reference, can be extremely helpful as well.

CTSS OUTREACH - SANTA CARES FOOD DRIVE

by Santa Dave Daniels

Are you interested in helping your community and spreading Christmas cheer all year long? If so, consider organizing a food drive in your area!

First, notify the current club President that you would like to organize a *Santa Cares Food Drive*. CTSS will reserve a banner, table, etc. needed to help you with the food drive. The club Secretary, *Jacque Kuzmic*, should also be notified of the event beforehand, so that she can notify the insurance carrier. As long as a CTSS banner is displayed at your event, and a CTSS member is present, the event is covered under CTSS insurance policy. Jacque's email is mrsclause06790@gmail.com.

You may have a place in mind for the food drive, such as Big Y, Stop & Shop, ShopRite, or Mistletoe Mart, your local mom and pops grocery store or town fair. Call and speak to the store manager or coordinator of the venue and ask if they would be willing to offer an area such as a section of the parking lot or store front for the food drive. You may be able to get on their calendar during this conversation, so have some dates in mind. Remember that planning, recruiting, and advertising takes some time so your date should be at least two months out. Don't forget to choose a rain date! During this conversation, ask questions. Is there a specific person you should be contacting with questions that



come up and to confirm you will be there on the specific date? What times are best to capitalize on foot traffic? Are you able to set up a

▷ **CTSS Outreach - Santa Cares Food Drive**

canopy tent or just tables and chairs, etc. Make sure you have a pen and paper handy for this phone call.

Once you have a site and a date, start recruiting volunteers. Reach out to fellow *CTSS* members, as well as friends and family. If you think you could use six people, recruit ten. Things come up, and it's always good to have a few extra hands. Teenagers can be very helpful, so don't forget the young people. Also, a volunteer with a truck could be priceless. Keep a list of your volunteers with their phone numbers and contact info so you can coordinate with them as the date nears.

Contact your local food bank and let them know that you are coordinating a food drive and would like to donate the collected

items to their location. Tell them the date and time of the food drive. They will tell you exactly where to bring the food and what time they close. Ask them if they have people on hand to unload the food or if you should have several helpers come to help with the delivery.

Advertise! If your food drive will take place at Mistletoe Mart in Reindeer Town, create fliers to post on bulletin boards and windows throughout the store. Fliers can also be on display at libraries, the town hall and restaurants in Reindeer Town. Have local folks share the info on Facebook. You can even give your local radio station a call to advertise. Make a few large posters to put up at Mistletoe Mart the day of the drive so patrons can clearly see that you are collecting nonperishable items for a food drive.

Have fun! If you've got all your Elves in a row, event day should be a blast. With good planning, a great group of volunteers and a jolly attitude, you will be packing that sleigh...uh... pickup truck with donations in no time. Often people will make donations of cash during a food drive. In this case, give all cash donations to the Treasurer of *CTSS* and they will send a check for that amount to the food bank. Be sure to take photos of your food drive set up during the event and email them to Santa Duck along with a brief description of the event. Based on your community outreach, *CTSS* may be able to obtain future grants and donations.

Additional information on the CTSS website; [Santa Cares](#).



Register today at ctsocietyofsantas.org

The Connecticut Society of Santas presents

12th Annual

CTSS Workshop Weekend 2022

*Independent Day School, 115 Laurel Brook Road,
Middlefield, Conn*

**Saturday, October 29, 2022 – 8:00 am –
3:00 pm**



THE SANTA SECRET: IS SANTA CLAUS REAL?

by David Daniels



I have seen this, “*The Santa Secret: Is Santa Claus Real?*” shared by many blog posts and forums. It is one of those traditions handed down from one generation to another.

We understand that Santa is a symbol of giving and kindness, but there comes a time in every family when a child grows old enough to question the big ole’ Jolly Man in the red and white suit at Christmas

time. “*Is Santa Claus real?*”

Son: Dad, I think I’m old enough to know now—is there a Santa Claus?

Dad: (Stalling to figure out an answer) *Okay, I agree that you’re old enough. But before I tell you, I have a question for you. The truth is a dangerous gift. Once you know something, you can’t un-know it. Are you sure that you want to know?*

Son: (After a brief pause) *Yes, I want to know.*

Dad: *Okay, I’ll tell you. Yes, there IS a Santa Claus.*

Son: *Really?*

Dad: *Yes, really, but he’s not an old man with a beard in a red suit. That’s just what we want to tell kids. You see, kids are too young to understand the truth about Santa Claus until they are as old as you are. The truth is that Santa Claus isn’t a person, it is an idea. Think of all of the presents Santa gave you over the years. I actually*

bought those myself. I watched you open them. And did it bother me that you didn’t thank me? Of course not. In fact it gave me the greatest joy. You see, Santa Claus is the idea of giving for the sake of giving, without thinking of thanks or acknowledgment. When I saw that woman collapse in the grocery store last week and call for help, I knew that she’d never know that it was me who called the ambulance. I was being Santa Claus when I did that.

Son: *Oh!*

Dad: *So now that you know, you are part of it. You have to be Santa Claus also. It means that you can never tell a young child the secret and you can help us select Santa presents for your younger siblings. Most importantly, you have to look for opportunities to help people all year, not just at Christmas. Got it?*

Son: *Yeah, I think so. Thanks, Dad.*

Author unknown — adapted from various sources.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES!

By David Daniels

The *Club Newsletter* is a mirror that should reflect our mission of sharing, education, community involvement while passing down the Christmas traditions to all. By learning from each other we better our craft, and the newsletter is one form we can all contribute to and learn from. This newsletter needs you! It is here we post upcoming events - even yours! Share your successes of past events with us that promote Christmas in a positive image. Through exchanges of experiences and ideas, we can create an atmosphere of fellowship among our members.

Share a little about yourself in a Santa’s Spotlight, or

an idea that you wish us to write about. Please reach out to our newsletter staff! We will consider all submissions for upcoming issues. Send

photos along with your submission. One photo can speak a thousand words! Email your submission to David Daniels at ddaniels0@frontier.com.



▷ Santa's Spotlight: Introducing Our New Vice President



Brotherhood of Real Beard Santas (IBRBS) conference in Colorado that propelled him toward becoming a professional Santa as he worked on the *Essex Steam Train* for the 2018 and 2019 holiday seasons. At the end of 2019, Santa David decided to set up his own LLC and developed the craft of becoming a 'Santa in the virtual world' for the 2020 and 2021 seasons. Santa David looks forward to the 2022 season as he anticipates a combination of both in person and virtual visits with families both near and far.

"We all learn from each other."

In the spring of 2022, Santa David assumed the role of Vice President

for CTSS upon the encouragement of members of the executive board. In collaboration with his fellow officers, Santa David's vision is to first and foremost expand the number of active members of CTSS,

especially in the wake of key members who have passed away over the last several years. To achieve this goal, Santa David organized a series of Zoom sessions in August, September, and October for prospective members of the Claus family to join CTSS. Additionally, Santa David led the effort to bring back the annual Fall Conference in October, which will be held at the *Independent Day School* where

Sizemore works by day as the *Assistant Head of School*. Finally, Santa David wants to promote the brand of CTSS across the entire state of Connecticut. To that end, Santa David, along with Santa Bill and Santa Duck will participate in a family photo shoot at the *Saybrook Point Resort and Marina* in November, where all proceeds from this special event will directly benefit CTSS.

As Vice President of CTSS, Santa David enjoys this special organization because, in his words, *"we all learn from each other."*

Santa David hopes to be an active member of CTSS for many years to come!





POETRY CORNER

We would like to start adding a poem or two to our Club Newsletter. If you have any poems that you have written or a classic favorite that resides in the public domain, please send your entries to David Daniels at ddaniels0@frontier.com

THE WHOLE YEAR CHRISTMAS

by *Angela Morgan*

O, could we keep the Christmas thrill,
 The god of gladness and good-will,
 The lift of laughter and the touch
 Of kindled hands that utter much,
 Not once a year, but all the time,
 The melody of hearts in chime,
 The impulse beautiful and kind,
 Of soul to soul and mind to mind
 That swings the world
 And brings the world
 On one great day of all the year
 Close to God's treasure house of cheer...
 O, could we keep the Christmas feast,
 Even when goods and gold are least;
 Here, 'mid our common, daily scenes,
 Could we but live what Christmas means,
 Not one day, but for every day
 The miracle of wholesome play,
 The spirit sweet, gift-giving, young,
 From deepest wells of feeling sprung...

What a different world this world would be!
 For we would see as children see,
 If only a magic way were found
 To make us children the whole year round!



CTSS Leadership Team



Bill Dexter - President
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