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## **Davenport Jaycees Play "Santa" once again**

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### **Press release submitted by Davenport Jaycees**

In what has become known as the flagship community program for the Davenport Jaycees, the young professionals group is preparing once again to implement their annual Jaycee Santa program. Jaycee Santa began more than 50 years ago, and was designed to provide Christmas for children in the Quad-Cities area who would otherwise go without.

This Tuesday, December 7th at 7 p.m. a group of volunteers will be shopping at the Wal-Mart on Elmore Ave. to purchase toys and clothing to benefit children at Winnie's Place and Bethany for Children and Families. Forty-four children will receive up to five gifts each.

The gifts will then be sorted and hand-delivered to each organization, where they will ultimately be given to the parents for distribution. In addition to shopping, the Jaycees will be assisting Bethany with some corporate donation pick-ups, and also provided funding for the domestic and hygiene products Bethany includes in their holiday baskets.

Throughout the year, the Jaycees have planned a number of activities and events to raise money for their Jaycee Santa program, including their annual Bridal Expo and a "Christmas in July" trivia night.

"This is one of our favorite events of the year – it's hard to not get really excited about shopping and delivering Christmas present for kids," said Amy Jones, Vice President for Community Development, Davenport Jaycees. "At our trivia night fundraiser, we had a guest come up and tell us about the year the Jaycees helped his family because a death in the family had threatened Christmas. Twenty years later he's still kept his special toy, and those stories are why this is so important to us."

Donations for the Jaycee Santa program are accepted throughout the year. More information can be obtained by contact the Davenport Jaycees at [davenportjaycees@gmail.com](mailto:davenportjaycees@gmail.com).

The Davenport Jaycees is an organization of young, civic-minded individuals dedicated to making the community a better place and helping to develop future leaders. One of the oldest chapters in Iowa, they continue to sponsor community events like the Bridal Expo and the Jaycees Haunted House. Over the past 25 years, the Davenport Jaycees has returned more than \$500,000 to the community through contributions to various charities and the annual Jaycee Santa program. Most recently, the Jaycees provided the labor and \$35,000 for a playground near the Davenport riverfront as part of the Jaycees 75th anniversary celebration.