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Many heartfelt thanks to everyone (volunteers and attendees) that helped make my 11th Annual Holiday Party for Town of Verona residents on December 3rd a success! Fabulous volunteers worked together to make this event happen and festive attendees shared the Christmas holiday spirit. Some pictures from this event can be found on my website: www.fritzscherz.com

Thanks to the following people for taking part in the programmatic portion of the event: Bingo The Clown for face painting; Trooper Trevor Noonan and K9 Rya (both from the New York State Police) for interacting with the attendees; Rich Collins (VVS FFA Advisor), Devon Conley, Brenden Genei & Mark Hoffman Jr. of VVS FFA; Santa Claus for giving gifts to the children; Frank Buda for performing songs on his accordion; the following Christmas story readers: Honorable Joe Griffio (New York State Senator) & Honorable Curtis Morgan (Oneida County Sheriff's Office); Drew Allen of Drew's Magic and Balloon Animals for his special show; and Spencer Walker for performing songs on his guitar.

Thanks to the following people for supporting this event in a variety of ways: Gary Bissaillon, Stan Dakosty, Frank Elias, Martha Group, Mike Jaquays, Shelley Kemp, Honorable Amy Kotwica, Alexis Kullmann, Honorable Francis LaBarbera, Honorable Rob Maciol, Captain Jason Place, Timothy Quinn, Megan Rose, Linda Scherz, Craig Semans, Gretchen Slater, Diana Wilson, and Honorable Cindy Rogers Witt.

Thanks to the following businesses and/or organizations for donating baked goods and/or gifts or simply helping out: Adirondack Basketry, Big Lots (Oneida Store), Circle K, Colgate University Football, Dunkin' Donuts (Willow Place Store), Freihofer's Bakery Outlet, Graceful Gains Wellness Studio LLC, New York State Police, Oneida County Sheriff's Office, Oneida Indian Nation SavOn, PetZotics, Price Chopper (Oneida), Recovery Sports Grill (Verona Store), Silent Hooves Farm, Staples (New Hartford), Utica Coffee, VVS FFA, Walmart (Oneida) and the media that helped publicize the Holiday Party.

Thanks to the Verona Fire Department for providing the venue for the Holiday Party. Special thanks to my wife, Kathy, and our children, Katherine, Marissa, and Freddy for being so supportive, encouraging, and helpful during the weeks leading up to the Holiday Party and during the event itself. Thanks, too, to anyone I might've missed who played a role in the success of this event!

In closing, the bottom line is that so many people worked together to make this event happen. It is people like you that make a community great! I am so honored to call these great people my friends and Verona my hometown! Thank you!!! Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!!!