

# VW Advisors hosts dinner party

VW Advisors hosted its second annual Neighbors in Need Dinner with Santa on Dec. 8 at the Raccoon River Nature Lodge. About 100 clients from West Des Moines Human Services attended. A dinner of baked spiral ham, green bean casserole, macaroni and cheese, corn, dinner rolls and desserts was served by volunteers.

There were crafts and board games as well as Santa Claus for the youngsters to enjoy. Santa had a special gift for each child who attended. Adults and children were eligible for many door-prize drawings.

VW Advisors is a financial advisory firm in West Des Moines owned by Doug and Dawn Vander Weide, longtime West Des Moines residents. This event took 80 volunteers contributing their time and/or finances. Karen Kuster, a neighbor and friend to the Vander Weides, as well as a committed volunteer to this event, said, "I've come to realize that so many people want to help their neighbors. The great thing about this event is that it gives them the opportunity to do that."

Karen Kuster,



Clients line up for a Christmas dinner at the annual Neighbors in Need Dinner with Santa. The event was held at the Raccoon River Nature Lodge, and approximately 100 clients from West Des Moines Human Services attended. Below: J.D. Vander Weide poses with Santa.

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Deb Coppola, Jana Schaumberg, Diane Landry and Michelle Mahoney were hugely involved in this event, said coordinator Dawn Vander Weide.

"These ladies all live on my street. They take the list of kids who sign up for the event and make incredible Santa bags for every single child guest," she said. "The kids are thrilled to receive their gifts, and the parents are

really appreciative."

Vander Weide also said, "Many of our friends and clients take time to help with this event. We have people who set up and decorate the venue, prepare the food, buy and wrap the door prizes, serve the food, take pictures and clean up afterward. It is a collaboration of many good-hearted people."

—Submitted by West Des Moines Human Services

