

# BOYD BUZZ



## Orleans' holiday party brings Christmas to at-risk kids in Las Vegas

by Elisabeth Daniels

On December 18, more than 130 kids from five Las Vegas-area schools piled into the Mardi Gras Ballroom at **The Orleans Hotel and Casino** for an afternoon of non-stop fun.

At the "We Need a Little Christmas" party, there were arts and crafts at the tables and a buffet filled with kid-friendly food. Mrs. Claus and her elves put on a show, and Santa gave each child a festive holiday bag filled with goodies.

This inspiring event was organized by **Joyce Reisig, Scheduling Administrator at The Orleans**. It's a tradition dating back to 1990, when Reisig was a dealer at the Stardust.

Twenty-four years later, "it seems to get bigger and bigger each year," said Reisig. "It's a unique show because it's specifically for children that would have little or no Christmas or those that need a little bit of happiness."

"Joyce and all the volunteers put on an amazing Christmas party for our students," said **Barbara Lenox, Counselor at Robert Lunt Elementary**. "The children cannot stop talking about it. They were so surprised by all the generosity. The experience was wonderful, and I am sure they will remember it forever!"

"Each child felt important when they walked into the room," Reisig continued. "The food was all foods kids like: pizzas, hot dogs, hamburgers, fruit, and make-your-own sundaes. They couldn't believe they could have as much as they wanted."

The Orleans donated the food and ballroom so that the kids had plenty of room to play and enjoy the show.

"The Orleans is proud to support this event every year," said **Andre Filosi, Assistant General Manager of The Orleans**. "It's heartwarming to see the team members brightening a child's holiday."

Team members who volunteer love the event almost as much as the kids. "A lot of people from the past join us every year," Reisig said. "I have a lot of 'elves' from the past that continue to support it."



“It’s a good team-building exercise too, because team members get to participate by putting their own touch into the party. The volunteer team members and teachers have separate seating areas so they can mix and mingle with each other and enjoy the party.”

It’s only one day out of the year, but everyone who attends the event – kids and volunteers alike – leaves with a little bit of the spirit of Christmas.