

Season of ESA

2011-2012



Fall Board Meeting At Heartspring

November 4-6



What a great weekend we had at Heartspring! We were grateful to Judy Ahrens and her committee and to District D for hosting us. The Towne Place Suites by Marriott was so convenient and accommodating. HCI was there all weekend so we could get our Christmas shopping done.

Saturday Morning Marsha and Phyllis meet with the Chapter President's and District Chairman. Marsha shared her "Eat That Frog" philosophy when you need to get the job done.

After the morning meetings with Chapter presidents, District chairs and Committee Chairs and the Social committee hosting the Seasons of Fun, we had a delicious box lunch and then started our presentations.



There was a question and answer panel with members from different aspects of Heartspring that was very informative. Heartspring has 54 students from 12 different states, 12 from Kansas and the average age is 16. We also received an update on the Tree House project and then had a presentation from the awesome Chorale Sensations.





Then for \$20, you could join the Heartspring Hunt and have dinner before returning to Heartspring. Upon on return, we were treated to a special guest! Santa arrived! Santa John from Santa America gave us a presentation on what Santa America does and how we can help. We presented him with some “hugs” and took up a collection to help defray his expenses. Santa America is a group of volunteers who are trained as Santa’s to visit children and adults in Hospice or hospital care and continue to follow them throughout their treatment.

Do you ‘Believe’?



Marsha showed us her very impressive connections and introduced the most important man of the season – Santa! Everyone wanted a photo with the big guy!

Santa America – Delivering Love, Hope, and Joy to Children 365 Days a year!



Santa John visited with the Kansas State Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha at the fall council meeting in Wichita, Kansas. President Marsha has Direct connections with Santa!



The Santa-America foundation was founded in 2004 with Hospice beginnings. Its mission is to bring love, hope, and joy wrapped in a warm Santa hug to children and families in Hospice Care, with chronic pediatric illnesses, and suffering from post-traumatic stress. Santa America has helped with numerous events: Hurricane Katrina, Joplin tornado, and numerous articles have featured the group as in "USA Today", as well as many local newspapers and on television. Santa-America is a 501 C 3 nonprofit organization.

Santa-America visits children involved in Hospice Care. This involvement can include the child as the patient or as a family member with some member of the family under Hospice care. Bereavement is a part of what Santa tries to help heal. This type of care takes a special kind of individual so training is an important part of becoming a part of Santa-America. Santa's have normal fears of making these Hospice visits just like anyone else would. Santa's learn to:



- Bring up questions on death or grief in measured steps.
- Honor religious beliefs and privacy
- Stay in the moment while visiting the child
- Stay in the Santa Character at all times
- Be comfortable and quiet when it is called for and know when a quiet hug can be just the thing that the child needs at the moment.



Santa-America also addresses children with chronic pediatric conditions. Special needs like autism and genetic disorders have become a part of Santa's work. Sometimes these are long term conditions with repeat visits over years. It is Santa's job to build a trusting relationship with these children. Children with PTSD from natural disasters, children of deployed military, wounded warriors, and CASA have the attention of Santa-America.



The first rule for Santa-America is to know that it's all about the children. The second rule, if you have a problem or question, to please see rule number one.

(IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CHILDREN)



Do you believe in Santa?
WE SURE DO!



If anyone wants to learn more about Santa America please visit the Santa-America website at: www.santa-america.org. Anyone can sign on as a supporter at this location.

The president's project for the year was designated as Hospice. This program supports Hospice and Santa's may be found in various locations across the United States. These locations are listed on their website. Santa John told us that St. Jude's Children's Hospital is one of his favorite causes and he has visited many St. Jude patients. Those that attended the fall board meeting fell in love with this wonderful Santa as he told his stories of children that his heart has touched and how Santa helped them through some tough moments. He also told us of how Santa had a tough time holding back some tears as well but its Santa's job to stay in character and wait until those moments alone to show the emotion he has deep within his heart. And after all ... he's right!

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CHILDREN!

We had a presentation from "Dr. Simmons" and the Nominating Committee and some excellent desserts.



Following the Kansas State football game's exciting end, we had some excitement at the Hotel as we felt the tremors of the Oklahoma earthquake.



Sunday came an hour later as we all remembered to set our clocks back for the end of Daylight Savings and we started our Board meeting right on time. Committee chairs are looking for Educational reports, outstanding member submissions, and pictures for Marsha's scrapbook and assistance for the Festival of Trees.

Kim Kummer reported that the special committee formed to explore options on the News & Views is making progress and hopes to have a recommendation in January. She asked that members continue to exercise the email option for delivery. She also submitted a proposal that the excess funds in the convention contingency fund be utilized for leadership opportunities. This includes, but is not limited to, speaker fees for leadership, board meetings and convention. Applications can be made for use of the funds for leadership activities by any chapter, district or State Officer and will be disbursed upon approval by the Executive Board and subject to Audit. **We had some fun with our reports.**





Marsha announced that we will have a very special visitor at her convention in Hutchinson. BJ Clark, Executive Director, ESA, Int. will be joining us so please make plans to attend as she is retiring soon and you don't want to miss meeting her! She also announced that our IC Representative will be our own Maureen Wells. Susan Winters unveiled her theme & logo for 2012.

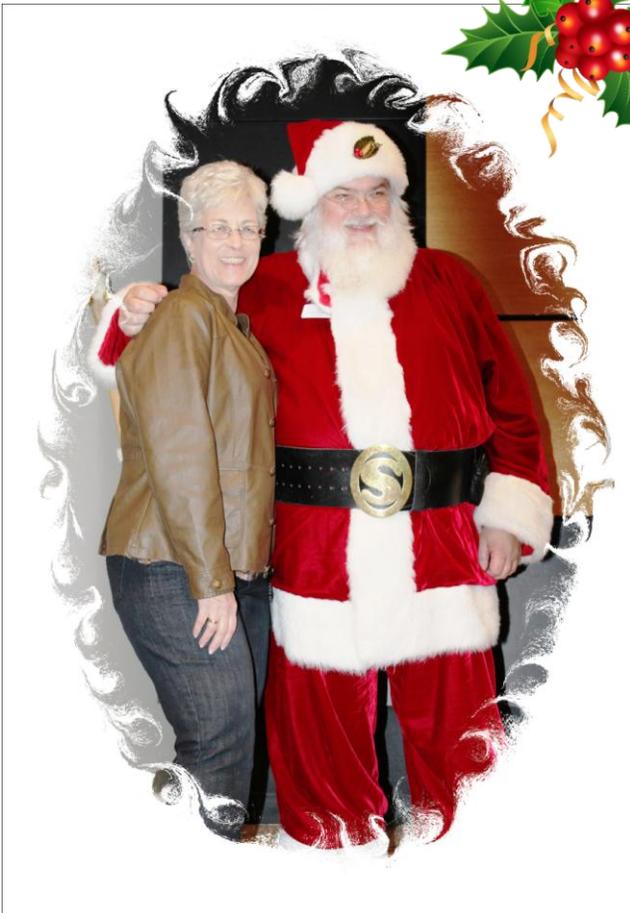


Kim was presented with her scrapbook .

January's meeting will be in Topeka and will include a tour of the Caper Foundation and a game night for the ESA Foundation so we hope to see you all there. Be watching the website and News & Views for registration forms.



... Remember



*It is the Season
to "Believe"!*