



Town of Little Elm
100 West Eldorado Parkway
Little Elm, TX 75068
(214) 975-0406
www.littleelm.org

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Celso Martinez 972-623-8836

October 5, 2015

Secret Santa registration dates set for annual program

LITTLE ELM (October 5, 2015) Registration for Little Elm's Secret Santa program will occur on October 8, 15, 22, and 29 in the Little Elm Public Library's Programming Room from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., says Kathy Phillips, Secret Santa co-coordinator and Town Secretary.

"The Secret Santa program provides Christmas gifts to Little Elm children who are not part of any other gift-giving program or are not enrolled in the public school system," she said. "It's designed to assist families with children from infants to 12 years of age and who are home-schooled, in alternate schools and those kids with special needs."

To register, parents must fill out an application, available for pickup at the Library or at the Town's Utility Billing Department. The completed application along with a picture ID, proof of Little Elm residency such as a water or electricity bill, and proof of income must be presented to program coordinators on the evenings of any of the remaining Thursdays in October. These are the only times that registration will be conducted. No registration will occur during business hours.

The Public Library is located within Town Hall, 100 West Eldorado Parkway and Utility Billing is on the second floor of the same building.

There is no charge for participating in the program. Families with children who are receiving gifts from other programs in the area are asked not to submit an application, since Secret Santa gifts are limited, and the emphasis of the program is to provide presents to those children who would otherwise not receive one.

"We just want to make sure that no child spends Christmas morning without a present," said Phillips. "Even if there's not a Christmas tree in the house, we want to make sure each child is remembered and feels loved."

The program, in one form or another, has been in existence in Little Elm for several years. It obtains toys or monetary donations from local businesses, groups and individuals, then pairs up gifts with requests from participating families. All funds collected by the program are used to purchase presents.

All of the coordinators and helpers are volunteers, donating their personal or vacation time to coordinate the registrations, catalogue and store gifts, match presents with requests and distribute the gifts to the appropriate families. The majority of the volunteers are Town of Little Elm employees, either recruited by Phillips or stepping forward on their own.

"It's a labor of love for us. Many of our volunteers spend countless hours of their own time to ensure the program is successful," she added.

More information can be obtained by contacting Phillips at (214) 975-0404 or Sandy DeVault at (214) 975-0471.

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ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state's fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm's population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town's footprint is just over 14 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.