

2020 SUGAR HILL TOWN CHRISTMAS PARTY DRIVE THROUGH EVENT – DECEMBER 17



Lots of snow and cold temps were perfect North Pole conditions



Santa greeted the cars from his throne on the steps



A candy cane pole pointed the way



Excited children arrived in cars

Sixth grade elves helped greet arrivals and carried gifts from Santa to the cars





Later at home.....kids opened the special presents from Santa and oh so grateful parents sent emails to say how much they appreciated having Santa visit Sugar Hill

Parents wrote.....

So awesome that you were able to make it happen. We all needed it! Merry Christmas!

You guys knocked it out of the park this year! We all thought the setup in front of the meetinghouse was just magical. Thank you so much to you and everyone else who kept the tradition going this year. Merry Christmas!

Thank you so much for doing this! It was absolutely great and our daughter was thrilled she got to see Santa! I can't imagine the work that must go into, but it was VERY well organized and went very smoothly last night! Thank you again so much for all your time and effort!

Bob and I wanted to offer our sincerest thanks for hosting such a wonderful event. It made for a fun family evening and put us in the Christmas spirit. Kudos to Santa, his elves and the Willing Workers. James was very excited to see Santa and loved opening his gift bag. He helped his baby sister with her gift and she is enjoying the rattle ball. We put together the ornaments which will be cherished for years to come. Thank you again!



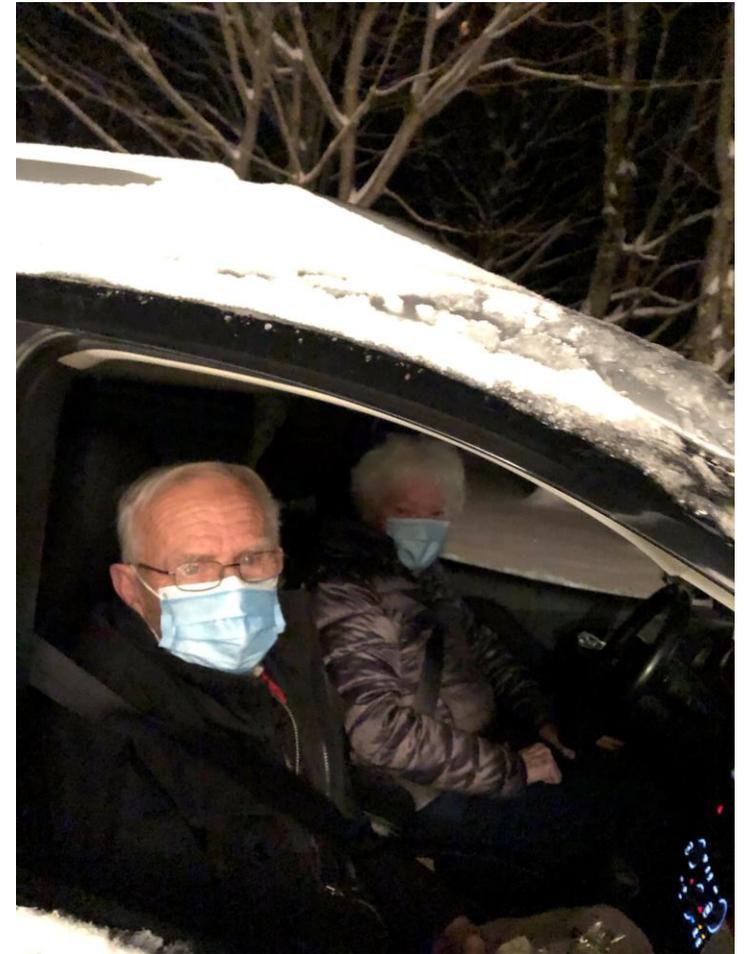
The New Hampshire Union Leader wrote.....

COVID-19 can't stop 128th annual Sugar Hill Town Christmas Party



This photo was in the Union Leader. Betsy Fraser of WWs, Santa, Rose Ellms special assistant to Santa and event planner, and Kathie Cote who has participated for many years and whose family has enjoyed the event for generations.

Rudolph (aka Chris Ellms), Santa, Rosemary, and an Elf



Gary Young maintained his record of never missing a Town Christmas Party. Congratulations Gary!

in electrical savings, depending on the funding the project receives from a USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant.

for large-scale funding for energy projects and they didn't want to miss the opportunity. The last time the federal government offered SOLAR, PAGE A13

from Albertsons. According to Lakeway Principal Crystal Martin, the school applied for the program with grant writing support from Above the Notch Community

can need. Martin said all of the food items were sourced from Shaw's and the Littleton Food Co-Op. More than 80 families indicated interest, and the food drive was

Willing Workers continue Christmas tradition

ANGEL LARCOM
angel@salmonpress.news

SUGAR HILL — The Willing Workers have steadfastly hosted Sugar Hill's annual Christmas event since the 1920s and they weren't about to let a pandemic stop the tradition this year. On Dec. 17, Santa waved from the front steps of the Town Meetinghouse as families drove up in their cars to receive age-appropriate gifts and an orange.

The tradition of gifting an orange to each child dates back to 1893, long before the village was incorporated as a town. Oranges were considered luxury items in those days, said Willing Worker Rose Ellms.

Ellms has overseen



Santa Claus visited Sugar Hill on Dec. 17 thanks to the Willing Workers, who have been hosting the town's annual holiday event since the 1920s.

the annual holiday tradition for the last 18 years, inheriting the helm from lifelong resident Kathie Côté. Côté, who co-owns the James Beard-nominated restaurant Polly's Pancake Parlor with her husband Dennis, first got involved with the event when she

was 14 years old, said Ellms.

The Côtés organized Santa's visit for nearly forty years before stepping away. Ellms said her first holiday event nearly two decades ago left a lasting impression.

"What an incredible event that was. We

never registered our child, but they called her name. She went up on stage in a carrier and she was only four months old," exclaimed Ellms.

No child is overlooked at the annual Willing Workers event. Ellms said 59

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The Rest of the Story

LAKEWAY

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For the last five years, the Albertsons corporation has donated more

than \$2 billion worth of food to hunger relief agencies and food banks across the country. A nationwide fundrais-

er was launched at all of the corporation's stores in September to help eliminate childhood hunger.

WILLING WORKERS

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children received gifts from Santa this year including Sugar Hill's newest resident, a four-month-old infant.

Typically, the community gathered inside the meetinghouse, and the local choir performed Christmas songs before Santa's arrival. It was a significant social event that was eagerly anticipated by many.

Both Ellms and volunteer Jim Snyder listed examples of elderly Sugar Hill residents and multi-generational families that recalled the Willing Workers Christmas

event for well over 80 years.

Although Ellms said there were a few worrisome moments during her preparations, she was determined to find a way to maintain the tradition.

"It's a huge deal and I look forward to it each year. In September, I presented my idea for a socially-distanced event to the Select Board. They said they were on-board with it as long as the situation didn't change," she said.

Ellms continued, "By November, things started to go south and I really doubted that it was a smart thing to

do. But then I realized that we would all be outside for the duration of the event and nobody would touch anyone else."

The Willing Workers were first formed in 1829 as a co-ed church organization in Sugar Hill. By-laws were established in 1920 and the Society became a non-sectarian, non-profit organization composed exclusively of women. Today, the group boasts 30 members from several towns in the region, including Littleton, Twin Mountain, Lisbon and Bethlehem.



happiest new year

*thank you for your help with the
128th annual sugar hill christmas party in 2020!*



**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP WITH THE
128th ANNUAL SUGAR HILL CHRISTMAS PARTY!**

During this crazy pandemic year, thank you for everything you did to bring a smile to the faces of 59 children (and parents!) in Sugar Hill this Christmas! While the traditional community gathering did not happen, the drive through event was a huge success ... look at that little boy's smile!

On behalf of The Willing Workers, who have helped Santa with this event for almost all their 100 years of service, THANK YOU for your support of our organization. Special thanks to the 3 elves, Caiyu, Rita and Sadie, who braved the cold with Santa.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2021!

For more information on how you can help the Willing Workers,
please visit us at www.thewillingworkers.org

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