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# CLAIMSCENE

## ACA SHOWS ITS HOLIDAY SPIRIT

The Spirit of the season was very apparent during our annual Holiday Luncheon held on December 4, 2009 at Maggiano's at Cumberland Mall. Even in the midst of difficult economic and business challenges, the members of The Atlanta Claims Association showed their humanitarian spirit.

Once again we decided to reach out to the children at 'A Friend's House'. This group, whose doors opened in Henry County in 1998, operates as an emergency placement for children in the custody of the Department of Family and Children Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice. They provide temporary shelter to children and youth who need a safe haven.

The outpouring of gifts and gift cards were a welcomed sight. It showed that people still wanted to help out those who are in need. We also want to thank Nan Jenkins from 'A Friend's House' who attended the luncheon as our special guest. Nan expressed her genuine thanks on behalf of Elaine Epps, A Friend's House, their staff and residents for thinking of them once again this year and providing them with such wonderful gifts that they can provide to the children in their care. Nan advised they currently have 12 children in their care and she had received a call that morning of 2 more that would be placed with them. A Friend's House can accommodate up to 24 children at any given time.



ACA Carolers

In addition food items were collected for the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Esther Powers reported delivering 256 pounds of food to the Food Bank. This too will go a long way in stocking the pantries at the Food Bank and ensuring that families

who have been affected by this economic downturn over the past year will be able to turn to the Food Bank for assistance when needed.

We want to extend a special thanks to our business partners, who provided door prizes for the attendees. The gift cards and items were appreciated as for some Christmas came early!



"Chicken" George Goddard and Matt Moffett

Our holiday entertainment was a "two-fer". We had the professional comedic stylings of "Chicken" George Goddard who not only enlightened us with his interesting stories about growing up in a small town and being a 4th generation son of the town's undertaker; but also how those simple things that we all now take for granted can be what keep us grounded as we get older in life. No, George did not go into the family's business. As his talk centered on the topic "You Won't Get Out of Here Alive" he told us many things but the one thing that stuck is that you have to keep laughing. Laughter is truly the best medicine and while it may not cure everything that causes you pain and heartache, it will get you through, especially when you can laugh with friends.

Lastly the ACA carolers performed a few holiday songs under the musical direction of our own Greg Presmanes. The brave souls got up and sang Jingle Bells, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, and Santa Claus is Coming to Town. With the audience participation, it really sounded great!

On behalf of the Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Chairs of the Atlanta Claims Association we extend to you our sincere appreciation and may your giving spirit be returned throughout this Holiday Season.

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