

Treasure Coast Hospice treats 'little treasures'

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A host of pediatric patients within the Treasure Coast Hospice Little Treasures program recently experienced a joyous day of holiday tidings. Transformed into a winter wonderland, the large meeting room on the Fort Pierce campus was a hub of activity for the children and their family members.



Ashley Baldera and Jacob

Basking in the warmth of the large televised yule log, attendees decorated gingerbread cookies, embellished tree ornaments, and adorned stocking caps. When not admiring the many beautifully decorated Christmas trees, parents and children moseyed over to the photo booth, generously donated and operated by Best Light Images Photography's Sue & Jim Kosinski.

Dressed in their most whimsical holiday stockings, miniature horses Calvin and Banks pranced their way into the party. Holding the reins, Jimmie Anne Haisley, Barbara Neuman, and Jennifer DeRoss ensured that these two gentle creatures from Healing Hoof's Therapy Horses, Inc. minded their manners as the guests approached for therapeutic hugs. Volunteer photographer Cory Janiak, of Ebb and Flow Photography, was on hand to capture the special moments.

Following a hearty lunch of tacos and pizza provided by Tijuana Flats and MOD Pizza St. Lucie West locations, it was time for everything snow. The children, and a few adults, delighted in faux snow snowball fights, creating mini-



Nathaniel Little hugs Calvin PHOTOS BY MARYANN KETCHAM



Jessica Sturgeon and Duska Parrish



Jimmie Anne Haisley, Barbara Neuman and Jennifer De Ross with Banks and Calvin.

blizzards and dreaming of Santa and his impending arrival.

Marshaled in by members of the St.

Lucie County Sheriff's Department, Mr. and Mrs. Claus gleefully cheered, 'ho, ho, ho,' as they jingled their bells and

greeted everyone! One-by-one, Santa called the children and their families over and presented them with wrapped gifts to be placed beneath their own trees.

Additional gifts presented included clothes courtesy of the Tijuana Flats Just in Queso Foundation and lovely gift bags thanks to Linda Grates and friends.

The Children's Holiday Party was sponsored by The Shannon Andersen Group Realty and Jamison and Nancy Brownie in memory of Kamden Rose Brownie.

"The Little Treasures Holiday Party offers children and families facing serious illness an opportunity to enjoy a fun-filled holiday experience," said Jacki Nardone, director of Grief Support and Pediatric Services. "We are grateful to the many individuals and organizations in our community that have generously supported this program year after year."

Little Treasures, Treasure Coast Hospice's specialized pediatric hospice and palliative care program, provides comfort and support to children, teens and families facing serious illness.

For more information, please visit TreasureHealth.org.