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More Than 100 AES **Students Present the Annual Performance of the** *Nutcracker*

Recently than 100 Ansonville more Elementary school students from grades 3-6 performed in the annual presentation of the Nutcracker. Faculty, staff, students, family and friends all joined together to celebrate this Christmas tradition at the school.

Several years ago two music educators, Ruth Artman and Mary Kay Beale, had a novel idea. They realized that too many students were never able to enjoy Tchaikovski's classical Nutcracker Ballet. They decided that this piece of musical

literature should be enjoyed by all students, not just the select few who were privileged to study ballet in a dance studio. These teachers used ETA Hoffman's Story of the Nutcracker Prince and Tchiakovski's ballet to create, Nutcracker-The Musical. This work has been performed by children of all ages and enjoyed by people of all ages.

Thanks to Mrs. Roberta Bumgardner, Ansonville students were able to learn the Nutcracker music and dance in order to perform for family and friends. Mrs. Bumgardner and her students did a wonderful job, as always. Everyone enjoyed the show and the performers received a standing ovation.



of Santa Claus, over 300 toys were given out to children. And, many adults left with cash prizes, gift cards, and even flat screen televisions. The true Christmas spirit was evident throughout the day. Anson County Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant was on hand, as well as Toys for Tots (who played a

major role in the event), State Trooper Landric Reid, and other community leaders gave remarks and shared in the festivities. Lead Pastor Steve Adams said, "We try to be a hand extended to our community all year long with the many outreaches and programs that we offer here at Harvest, but this day every year is the highlight of it all. To be able to see children happy,

families together, and Christ being shown really is hard to put into words." Founder of HMOC, Pastor Tim Adams added, "This is great! The hundreds of gifts under the tree, the meal, the community officials, politicians, and others who took their money, their time and their compassion to serve others shows that Anson County cares about each other ... and that we know the real reason of this season.

Harvest Ministries Outreach Center would like to thank the many volunteers, organizers, community partners, churches, and others who made this years event possible. A special thanks to: Leavitt Funeral Home, Attorney Charles Collini, Attorney Fred Poisson, La Fogata, Plaza Jalisco, PNC Bank, Touch of Class Salon, Brasingtons, Commissioner Anna Baucom, Pageland 7th Day Adventist Church, Dr. Sarah Elliott, C&M Auto, Strikers Bowling Center, Sonic of Rockingham, Lady Bug Restaurant, Sheriff Tommy Allen, The Express Newspaper, Pizza Inn - Rockingham, Beachum & Lee Ford, Trooper Landric Reid, Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant and Toys for Tots, and the Congregation of HMOC for your dedication, compassion, and desire to reach others!

Pastor Steve summed up the event by saying, "A

huge crowd is The great.

presents for children are wonderful. People loving and blessing others is truly what Christmas is supposed to be. And to know that over 100 people prayed to have Jesus Christ change their life, simply was the exclamation point on a day to be remembered."

Pastor Steve did share with the crowd that Harvest is in need of a 66 passenger bus (\$2,500) to reach more children and people with their services and programs. To donate to the "Buy that Bus" campaign or for more detail on HMOC and the many outreach efforts throughout the year, reach Adams at 704-695-2879 or visit www.harvestmin.com.

Wadesboro Wellness Program Winners Announced

Back in August the Town of Wadesboro announced it was incorporating a custom employee wellness program called the "Golden Sneaker Award" competition. The program's goal from







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the outset was to improve employee health and decrease healthcare costs. This goal has been achieved as employee participation has been 100% and the Town of Wadesboro expects to reduce its health insurance renewal costs.

At the Town Christmas Party, the Golden Sneaker Competition winners were announced Team Fire/Dispatch led by Chief Jimmy Burns was awarded the prestigious Golden Sneaker Trophy, barely edging out Team Police #2. Dispatcher Mitchell Sutton won the individual competition, followed by Jimmy Burns, Tommy Jarman, Sherry Horne, Mike Wagner, Scott Martin and Brandon Chewning.

Town Manager Alex Sewell commented, "Incentivizing positive health decisions is essential to containing healthcare costs in today's environment. Thank you to the Wadesboro Town Council for embracing the concept and to our employees for making the choice to be healthier and happier."





Mitchell Sutton (left) with Alex Sewell.



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