

Thank You Letter from Sandy Elliott

Thursday December 11, 2008

To All of Santa's Elves:

I wanted to pass along another THANK YOU for hosting a wonderful party yesterday at the Ramada. I am the proud mom of 3 boys, two of which have special needs. My oldest son CC attended the party last year and thoroughly had a blast. This year he was able to attend with his brother JJ. JJ has sensory issues and this causes him a lot of anxiety especially if there are loud noises such as a microphone or an announcement system being used. This year we took him to a traditional Christmas party and he asked to leave immediately. He could not handle the noise of the room and the size of the crowd, even with wearing his earmuffs.

Yes, JJ did cry the entire way to the party. He kept asking if there would be a magician there (which horrified him at the other party). He was worried about the noises and what to expect. He was worried about the amount of people at the party. I kept reassuring him that we should try this party and that if he wanted to leave, we would. I suggested to him that Dennis might be there with his guitar which made JJ feel much better.

Well JJ wore his earmuffs for about 30 minute while at the party and then he never looked back. He had a wonderful time. Near the end of the party he spontaneously told me "this party is not scary, this party is fun". He also told his elf that as well.

So I wanted to let you know that you made Christmas very special for two little boys this year. The party that you offer to these children is such a wonderful gesture and it is really appreciated by our family because it is not something we could ever give to him. Your party was a wonderful gift for JJ (and CC).

For those of you who saw the story on the CTV newscast about the party, JJ was the first boy on the story who exclaimed "my hug a bear!".

Thank you again from our family!