

## Venice Lions Celebrate “Santa Day” with Local Kids ....

Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> was a special day some local kids and their families in the Venice / Nokomis area. That day, once again, Venice Lions Club held its “Santa Day Party”, for some area kids at the Vision Center at the Venice Health Park.

Names, ages and other details of children from six families residing in the area, were chosen with the help of Island Montessori School Staff and “Children First Initiative”, based on the family’s financial need. The details were then distributed to the Club members and the each member picked a child’s name and bought the gifts desired by that child.



Members also provided cookies, cakes, soft drinks and crayons and paper to keep the kids busy and parents happy while they waited for the visit from Santa Claus. As a special treat, the children got to meet and interact with our Lions mascot.

The parents got a big bag of “goodies”, unknown to the children delivered to the car, to be opened on Christmas morning and a gift certificate to the local Wal-Mart store for \$100, so that they could buy whatever is necessary to **change a plain December 25<sup>th</sup> to Christmas Day.**

