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Included below is a press release regarding the MOARC Christmas Party held by Ferris State University Tuesday afternoon. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

For Immediate Release  
Dec. 22, 2009

Leah Nixon  
Ferris State University  
Assistant Director of News Services  
[leahnixon@ferris.edu](mailto:leahnixon@ferris.edu), (231) 591-5604

### **Ferris Dining Services Hosts Christmas Party for MOARC**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University hosted a Christmas party Dec. 22 for the Mecosta-Osceola Area Rehabilitation Center in thanks of their hard work and dedication to helping local residents with disabilities find work in the Big Rapids community.

“What a heartwarming event. The smiles and the excitement on the faces of the clients bring back the true meaning of Christmas,” said Bryan Marquardt, assistant director of Westview Dining Center.

Ferris buses picked up clients from HOPE Network and chauffeured them to the festivities. More than 150 guests socialized with one another while savoring provided snacks and beverages before sitting down to enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner, including turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing and vegetables.

The holiday meal, along with appearances by Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and two of Santa’s elves were a highlight of the party, which also included a gift exchange, live music from a volunteering band and caroling.

The program began in 2002 when Ferris Dining Services employees wanted to do something they could feel good about during the holiday season, Marquardt added, saying giving back to the community was the No. 1 choice.

While the majority of the volunteering hosts are Ferris Dining Services employees, volunteers from Physical Plant and the campus community also gave their time to aid in this spirited event.

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Ferris.MOARC Christmas.jpg

Leah Nixon  
Assistant Director of News Services  
University Advancement & Marketing  
420 Oak Street, PRK 101  
Ferris State University  
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2031  
(231) 591-5604 / fax (231) 591-2985