

LAGNIAPPE

MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS

DECEMBER 2019

CELEBRATING



OF SERVICE

Safe Toy Giving

By: Steve Ham, Lofton Safety Services

This time of year is an exciting time for giving. When it comes to toys and gifts, the excitement in getting your children their favorite toys could cause shoppers to forget about safety factors. According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, each year hospital emergency rooms treat an estimated 251,700 toy-related injuries throughout the United States. To ensure your children have a safe and healthy Christmas, consider the safety and age range recommendation of toys.

Toy Guidelines:

- Toys made of fabric should be labeled as flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Stuffed toys should be washable.
- Painted toys must use lead-free paint.
- Art materials should say nontoxic.
- Crayons and paint should say ASTM D-4236 on the package – which means that they they've been evaluated by the American Society for Testing and Materials.

When picking out gifts for children, be sure to keep in mind safety tips for that age range and toy. A toy could be the perfect fit for their age and development, but there are still safety factors that need to be evaluated.

Balloons. Children can suffocate or choke on deflated or broken balloons. Keep away from children younger than eight years old, and discard broken balloons immediately.

Small Parts. Avoid gifting toys with small parts to children younger than three because it can cause choking.

Magnets. High-powered magnet sets are dangerous and should be kept away from children.

Batteries. Battery-operated toys should have secure battery cases with screws so that kids cannot pry them open. Battery fluid poses serious risks, including choking, internal bleeding, and chemical burns.

Year End W-2

By: Sandra Hughes, Billing & Payroll Mgr.

It's almost that time of year again - W-2's! It's important to review your paystubs this month to make sure the following are correct:

- Your address
- State and federal withholdings
- Your social security number

If you worked for more than one department, i.e. Security, Clerical, Industrial, Energy or Medical, you will receive a W-2 for each. If you need to make any changes (address, etc.), log into your account through the employee login on the Lofton website, or contact your local payroll department immediately. Changes must be called into the payroll department by January 15th. W-2(s) will be mailed no later than the last day in January. W-2's can also be printed from your Lofton online account (employee paystubs link) in mid February.

Survey Reminder



Beginning the week of December 2nd, a short survey will be emailed out asking 3 questions about our service here at Lofton Staffing & Security. It would help

us greatly if you could spend a few of minutes completing the online survey. These surveys help us to continue to deliver and/or improve our service each year.

The email will be from **clearlyrated** Survey. If you do not receive the email, please let us know and we will get one sent out to you.

*** Everyone who participates in the survey will be entered in a drawing for a Gift Card.*



Lofton 40th Anniversary Beaumont, TX

Lofton continued our 40th Anniversary celebration with the Beaumont team on November 12th. The cold weather didn't stop our many clients, employees and local Chamber members to come out and celebrate. Thank you everyone! Check out more photos on Facebook.



Beaumont crew toasts to 40 years of Employment Service. L to R: Bart Lofton, Michelle Lofton, Dustin Winn, Danette Anderson, Madeline Aubey, Hallie Brown, and Carl Carver



Hallie Brown, Madeline Aubey, Ashley Campbell, and Dixie Winn enjoying food and connecting with clients and their employees. Thanks to Dixie for the fabulous food!



Thanks for the Memories

By: Glenda Lofton, Ph.D.

When Julie East, editor of this newsletter, called me at the beginning of 2019 to remind me that this was the 40th Anniversary of Lofton Staffing and to please use my 12 monthly articles to review the history of Lofton Staffing, I thought, "Wait... Has it really been forty years?" I immediately thought of my Great Uncle Ira on my mother's side. When he was in his late 90's, I asked him to tell me about when he was a boy. As he began to reminisce, big tears began to roll down his cheeks, and he said, "It seems like only yesterday." A few months later, my mom took him to the bank to renew a CD. When the banker asked him how long he wanted to renew it for, he replied, "Go ahead and renew it for ten years! I don't think I'll need it before then!" I hope to live and learn from his positive thinking. He lived to be 99.

As I began to reflect on my family history and the 40-year history of Lofton Staffing, Bob Hope's theme song, "Thanks for the Memories," kept echoing in my head. Bob Hope, as most of you know (if not, google him), was a stand-up comedian, actor, singer, and dancer who lived to be 100 (1903-2003), and his career spanned nearly 80 years. From 1941 to 1991, he made 57 tours entertaining active duty American military personnel during the Christmas season and was declared an honorary veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces in 1997. We may not

all have the longevity of my Uncle Ira or the enduring success of Bob Hope, but as Tommy Lofton reminds us in the "beliefs" on which Lofton Staffing was founded, we are all called to serve. For Tommy and our family, that included serving God and others. As noted in the picture, annual Lofton Staffing Christmas parties at our house became a time for focusing on "the reason for the season"—reading about the birth of Jesus from the Bible and



Focusing on "The reason for the season." A tradition passed down to both Bret and Bart.

Tommy singing a Christmas song. It's a tradition that has been passed down to both Bret and Bart as they have hosted Christmas parties at their homes since Tommy's retire-

ment. Both Bret and Bart are talented singers, and recently Bart's 13 year old daughter, Via, has joined him in singing the Christmas song.

As Via's proud Grandmere, I have to add that this month Via played the role of "The Little Mermaid" in a musical play at Episcopal School of Baton Rouge, and to Via's delight, many of the Lofton Staffing family attended. I first became aware of Via's talent back in 2011 when Tommy had surgery, and she visited him in the hospital. "Papa," she said, "I have a song I want to sing to cheer you up. It's one we sing in chapel at school." Here is what she sang with a voice so sincere and melodic at the age of five:

*I'm keeping my eyes on Jesus.
When I start to fall
He helps me to stand.
When I have a problem
And I don't know what to do
I keep my eyes on Jesus.
He carries me through.
I don't need to worry,
And I won't be afraid
For Jesus will protect me
And help me every day.
And he's keeping me in His hands.
And he's keeping me in His hands.*

As 40 years of service, 1979-2019, comes to an end, let each of us at Lofton Staffing re-commit to serving God, our clients, and each other, remembering that when we help others, we help ourselves. On Christmas Day and every day, may the things we do be for the joy of it, and help us continue to grow stronger together.

CancerCARE Addition

By: Mary Dixon, Benefits Coordinator

The CancerCARE Program was added to your Lofton health plan at NO additional cost to you. This is an enhanced benefit we encourage anyone facing a cancer diagnosis to enroll in to take advantage of the resources available.

- Access a team of cancer experts who guide you through your care.
- Confirmation that you are receiving the most effective treatment for your diagnosis.
- Identification of commonly misstaged and/or misdiagnosed cancers.
- Access to national Centers for Excellence for complex surgeries, care and second opinions.
- Assistance in finding financial and community support.

If you have a new or existing cancer diagnosis, please register today. 877-640-9610
Cancercare.interlinkhealth.com/intake

Life Lessons from Santa

There is something special about this time of year. A time of giving, receiving and good cheer. Santa has good life lessons we can all live by.

Santa Wants Us to be Our Best all Year Long.

Have you been good all year? He reminds us that making the effort to share kindness, compassion and generosity always leads to a happier life.

Santa Doesn't Discriminate.

There is no demographic survey to participate in Christmas. Santa delivers presents for boys and girls around the world every Christmas Eve. In His eyes, we are worthy of love and good tidings.

Santa Makes His Gifts.

Santa knows the most important thing about a gift is the love and feeling behind it, not the price tag.

Santa Has a Positive Support System.

Santa is surrounded by a collaborating team that takes a HUGE insurmountable task and turns

it into an accomplishment. They are #bettertogether.

Santa Teaches Us to Believe.

Although you can't see Santa, you can feel his presence in the air. He teaches us to believe in something you can't see or touch. To believe in something greater than ourselves.

Santa Has Fun!

Delivering presents around the world in one night is a stressful job, but Santa does it with a smile on his face, a twinkle in his eye and a jolly "Ho, Ho, Ho." Santa knows how to Have Fun and Be Better.

Santa Loves His Work.

Santa is the perfect example of finding your joy and loving it! He spends all year preparing for one night, without pay. The only way to do great work is to LOVE what you do.

Santa Gives.

Santa knows it's better to give than to receive. When we help others, we in turn, help ourselves.

If we all kept Santa's sprit all year long, what a world we would live in!