

Youth Center Holiday Party

Kids, families enjoy food and gifts

By Jeff Smith

jsmith@the-leader.com

CORNING - A large crowd filled the annual Holiday Party at the Corning Youth Center Thursday, enjoying dinner, getting some cool presents from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, as well as enjoying time with Frosty and Rudolph.

Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, executive director of the Family Service Society Inc., said about 125 youths and their families, many who use the Laura Richardson Houghton Youth Center, enjoyed the party, as well as several community guests, board members and Youth Center staff.

"The holiday season is a time when we think about gifts," said Ayers-Friedlander. "Some of the most important gifts come from within us - not from a store. Having the opportunity to learn and try new things. Developing friendships built on trust and kindness. Having

See HOLIDAYS, A8



Nine-year-old Meah receives a dinner Thursday from City Manager Mark Ryckman at the annual Holiday Party at the Corning Youth Center alongside Councilman Frank Muccini, R-5, and Mayor Bill Boland. [JEFF SMITH/THE LEADER]

HOLIDAYS

From Page A1

fun with other.”

Kamren Corle, 14, of Corning, who started coming to the Youth Center in the summer months, said he has enjoyed spending time with staff members and others, who often come to the Youth Center.

Cady Bennett, 10, of Corning, agreed.

“I come to the Youth Center pretty much everyday after I get out of school,” Bennett said. “What I like best is getting

to do special activities. The activity I like the best is zumba.”

Ayers-Friedlander said more than 50 children at the event received gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Santa.

“Events at the Youth Center grow each year,” Ayers-Friedlander said. “The Youth Center offers a place where children can experience these gifts and where the rest of us - parents, volunteers, donors, board members and staff - all of those making this possible - can come together to celebrate having a special place.”



Mr. and Mrs. Claus handed out gift to more than 50 children Thursday at the annual Holiday Party at the Corning Youth Center. [JEFF SMITH/THE LEADER]