

**The original documents are located in Box 11, folder “12/16/76 - Hospital for Sick Children Christmas Party” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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12/15/76

12:28 pm

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

MRS. FORD'S PARTICIPATION IN THE  
ANNUAL HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN  
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Hospital for Sick Children  
Washington, D. C.

Thursday, December 16, 1976

1:30 pm Mrs. Ford boards motorcade on South Grounds.

MOTORCADE DEPARTS South Grounds en route  
Hospital for Sick Children (1731 Bunker Hill Rd., N. E. ).

[Driving time: 25 minutes]

1:55 pm MOTORCADE ARRIVES Hospital for Sick Children.

Mrs. Ford will be met by:

Harrison Brand, III, Board President  
Mrs. William Alexander, Trustee and  
Christmas Party Chairman

Mrs. Ford, escorted by Mr. Brand, proceeds to  
Activity Room foyer to greet Admiral Willis C. Barnes,  
Commanding Officer, Naval Ship Engineering Center,  
Mrs. Lorene Nagel, Director, Community Relations,  
Hospital for Sick Children, and Mr. Dale Lowe,  
Hospital Administrator.

2:00 pm Mrs. Ford, escorted by Mrs. Nagel, proceeds to  
stage area to offer Christmas greetings to the children.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE  
ATTENDANCE: 150



2:05 pm        Mrs. Ford is joined by child who will present a  
                 Christmas Card from the children.

2:08 pm        Mrs. Ford takes her seat.

              2:10 pm        Admiral Barnes presents check to Mr. Brand.

              2:12 pm        Mr. Brand responds.

              2:13 pm        Mr. Lowe presents plaque of appreciation  
                 to Mrs. Ford.

2:14 pm        Mrs. Ford responds.

2:15 pm        Mrs. Ford is invited by Mrs. Nagel to assist in  
                 passing cookies to children.

              2:30 pm        Santa Claus arrives.

2:31 pm        Mrs. Ford joins Santa Claus in distributing presents  
                 to children.

NOTE: Staff members will assist in  
distributing after Santa & Mrs. Ford  
read the names on the gifts.

2:45 pm        Mrs. Ford bids farewell to the children and departs  
                 Activity Room en route motorcade for boarding,  
                 escorted by Mr. Brand, Mr. Lowe, Mrs. Nagel &  
                 Santa.

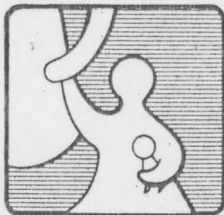
2:50 pm        MOTORCADE DEPARTS Hospital for Sick Children  
                 en route South Grounds.

[Driving time: 25 minutes]

3:15 pm        MOTORCADE ARRIVES South Grounds.

                 Mrs. Ford proceeds to residence.





"Everyone has someone to care"

## The Hospital For Sick Children

1731 Bunker Hill Road NE • Washington, D. C. 20017 • 202-832-4400



TO: All Media  
FR: The Hospital for Sick Children  
RE: Annual Christmas Party  
Contact: Lorene Nagel 832-4400

For immediate release  
December 16, 1976

Since this will probably be the last of Mrs. Ford's many visits to The Hospital for Sick Children, everyone was wearing hearts-on-their-sleeves tucked into sprigs of holly for their Annual Christmas Party. The Hospital, a special facility for handicapped children, has been a favorite charity of Mrs. Ford's long before she became First Lady. It has always enjoyed her personal interest and concern.

The children, with a few helping hands, pasted together a huge Christmas card, made like a book, from whose pages stepped four year old Wassina Russell (a severe burn case) who was supposed to say "Merry Christmas, Mrs. Ford". What Wassina really said at her moment of glory only the reporter will know!

Also in tribute and farewell to long-time friend Betty Ford, Dale Lowe, Administrator of The Hospital for Sick Children, presented her with a plaque in marquetry which read:

"To Betty Ford whose very special caring  
for our little patients will be remembered  
and cherished with deep affection."

In her usual at-home-here style The First Lady helped serve the refreshments and assisted Santa Claus in reading the names on all the gifts. No pack-on-the-back Santa this year - he brought his gifts for 120 children by modern "Auto-train": decorated laundry carts lashed together with Santa the engine.

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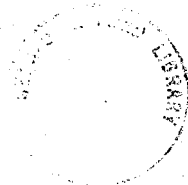


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The Annual Christmas Party is hosted by the Naval Ship Engineering Center, so a real live Admiral Willis C. Barnes was on hand to add the "brass" and not incidently present a nice fat check to the President of The Board of Trustees of The Hospital for Sick Children, Mr. Harrison Brand, III.

Special guests included members of the Hospital's Board of Trustees and a delegation from the Admirals' Staff.

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For immediate release  
December 16, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

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Mrs. Ford will attend a Christmas party at the Hospital for Sick Children in Washington, D.C. today at 2 p.m.

The party is held annually for about 100 children, and this is the third year Mrs. Ford has attended. The Hospital is a specialized institution which provides intermediate care to infants, children and adolescents. Mrs. Ford considers the Hospital a special interest.

The party is sponsored by the Naval Ship Engineering Company, represented by Adm. Willis C. Barnes, the commanding officer. Admiral Barnes will present the Hospital with a check from the Naval Ship Engineering Company.

Meeting Mrs. Ford at the entrance will be Harrison Brand III, president of the Hospital board, and Mrs. William Alexander, trustee and party chairman.

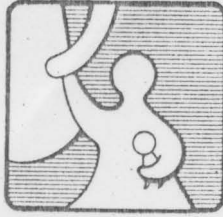
Mrs. Ford will take part in a brief program with Adm. Barnes; Mrs. Lorene Nagel, director of community relations for the Hospital; and Dale Lowe, Hospital administrator. Mrs. Ford will be presented with a plaque or appreciation for her support.

# # # #

The Hospital is located at 1731 Bunker Hill Road NE







"Everyone has someone to care"

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1731 Bunker Hill Road NE • Washington, D. C. 20017 • 202-832-4400

## ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

### THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

December 16, 1976

#### Agenda

- 1:00 P.M. All children arrive at Party Room
- 1:15 P.M. Sing-a-long/carols and songs
- 1:30 P.M. Magician and Clown
- 1:50 P.M. Sing-a-long while Magician clears stage of props etc.
- 2:00 P.M. Mrs. Ford arrives
- 2:05 P.M. Presentation of Mrs. Ford's Christmas Card from the children by Lorene Nagel
- 2:10 P.M. Presentation of check to H.S.C. from Naval Ship Engineering Center by Admiral Willis C. Barnes, Commanding Officer.

Accepted by Harrison Brand, III, President Board of Trustees of H.S.C.

- 2:15 P.M. Presentation of H.S.C. Plaque of Appreciation to Mrs. Ford by Mr. T. Dale Lowe, Administrator, H.S.C.

H.S.C. Logo: "Everyone Has Someone to Care."  
 Logo in Marquetry copy: "To Betty Ford whose very special caring for our little patients will be remembered and cherished with deep affection."

- 2:20 P.M. Refreshments/Mrs. Ford assists
- 2:30 P.M. Santa arrives/Mrs. Ford assists in distribution of Gifts
- 2:50 P.M. Goodbyes begin → 3:00 P.M.



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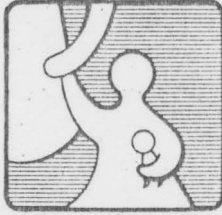
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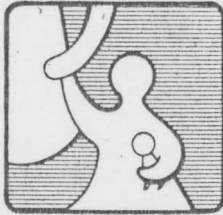
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