



Christmas in St. Michaels

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Christmas in St. Michaels Gives all Year

Christmas in St. Michaels 2009 will take place December 11, 12, and 13. More than a holiday happening, it's a time to enjoy the festivities while helping to make a contribution to the community.

For the past 22 years, Christmas in St. Michaels (CISM), through the help of hundreds of volunteers, has brought an array of festivities and holiday events to the town of St. Michaels. But, CISM has never lost sight of its primary goal and mission, which is to provide resources to assist local, non-profit organizations fulfill their goals of enhancing the quality of life for the residents of the community.

CISM, an all-volunteer, private corporation, not only enhances the quality of life for residents, but also contributes to their basic and fundamental needs. In 2007 a grant to the Good Samaritan Fund of Talbot County, assisted residents with costs associated with food, prescription medication, rent, and utilities. This year, a grant will be made to the St. Michaels Food Pantry and to St. Michaels Community Center.

In 1987 a group of energetic volunteers recognized the need for day care services in the community. Since that time, this annual fund-raising weekend event has raised more than \$800,000 for local, non-profit organizations.

CISM has continuously supported children's organizations, most notably the Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers (formerly St. Michaels Site Easton Day Care). As a direct result of funds received from CISM in 2008, a much-needed program for 2 year olds was begun this year. Previously, day care programs in St. Michaels existed only for children 3 years of age and older.

Through the years, CISM has made financial contributions to elementary and secondary local school programs in support of music, athletics, and citizenship. This year St. Michaels and Tilghman Island elementary schools will receive funding for their Character Counts programs that champion positive character development.

Other beneficiaries for 2009 include the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. The grant to the museum will be used for need-based scholarships for children participating in the Kid's Club project. The Town of St. Michaels will receive funding to support the restoration and redevelopment of Muskrat Park.

For information on CISM, please call 410-745-0745 or visit www.christmasinstmichaels.org



Exploring the Katie G skiff at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum brought a new experience for the two and three year olds from the Critchlow-Adkins Children's Centers (St. Michaels site). The Critchlow-Adkins Children's Centers and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum were selected, along with four other non-profit organizations, as beneficiaries for 2009. Funding received from CISM in 2008 enabled Critchlow-Adkins Children's Centers to begin a new program specifically for two year olds. Staff members from the children's center shown here are (from right to left): Amanda Penuela, Kim Andrews, Ashlie Elliott, Amber Chance and Marlene Thomas, site director.