Family Christmas Festival planned at Acadian Village

The eagerly awaited Christmas season will begin in early December in the greater Lafayette area with a special event sponsored by the Junior League of Lafayette. "Christmas Comes Alive--It's Magic At The Village" will be the first year for a large-scale Christmas light and sound program for Southwest Louisiana, bringing thousands of families to the Acadian Village.

This Yuletide festival celebrating the spirit of Christmas will be held the week of December 7-14 from 6 to 9:00 p.m. weekdays and 5 to 9:00 p.m. weekends. The Acadian Village and Tropical Gardens will come alive as a Christmas fantasyland when Santa and his helpers arrive for this special fund raising event. The entire village and grounds will be decorated with hundreds of lights illuminating evergreens, shrubs, walks and buildings. Glittering scenes and gigantic animations will be displayed in front of each historic home. One of these spectacles include: an animated "Santa's Workshop" featuring Sany's elves busily singing and working in a toy workshop. Other displays which can be seen are "Santa Checking His List", "The Elves Christmas Tree", "Santa's Mail Drop-Off", and Christmas Morning". Appropriate seasonal decorations will be featured throughout the entire village area.

Be entertained by elves, gnomes and other magical moving Christmas characters as you wander through this outdoor wonderland. Enjoy the tradition of a live nativity, Christmas caroling and live entertainment by church, school and community groups performing nightly.

There will be a grand opening ceremony, Sunday, December 7 at 6 p.m. following Abdalla's Christmas parade. It will be highlighted by the illumination of a giant Christmas tree, after which each animation will be activated. Many local dignitaries will participate in the opening ceremonies, including Yankee pitcher, Ron Guidry and his family. There'll be something for everyone--plenty of fun, entertainment and Christmas spirit galore! The Yuletide atmosphere of "Christmas Comes Alive--It's Magic At The Village" is definitely something you must experience this holiday season. It's enough to make you believe in Santa.

Proceeds from the week long event will go to fund Junior League projects and programs in the community, such as the Acadian Village, the Children's Shelter, and the Family Tree. General admission tickets are $2 per person and are on sale from area merchants including Abdalla's Downtown & Oil Center, Brother's, Gay's, Holmes, Lafayette Parish Library, Racoon Records, Saloom's and from other members of the Junior League.