tendo DS and I-Dog soft speaker this year? I'll leave you some cookies on the table. Love, Calosha Smith

Dear Santa. Merry Christmas to you. I hope Mrs. Claus and all the reindeer

are good this year. Would you bring me a Flying Horse and Disney Princess play set? Love, Ariana Escobar

Dear Santa.

How are you? I know you are busy right now. How is Rudolph? I have been good this year. I would like a Shake-N-Go Crash Up Speedway and the Hot Wheel Stick Tracks this year. I will leave you some milk and cookies.

Merry Christmas, Bryan Thompson

How are you? How is Mrs. Claus and all the reindeer? Is it cold at the North Pole? Mrs. Moss says I have been good this year. I would like you to bring me a laptop and an I-Pod this year. I will leave a carrot for Rudolph by the chimney. Merry Christmas.

Your friend, Emily Torres

Dear Santa.

How are you? I know you are busy right now. How is Rudolph? I have been good this year. I would like a L'il Luvable Puppy and Crayola Glow Station this year. I will leave you a carrot for Rudolph and something to eat.

Merry Christmas, Your friend, Alicia Dover

I have been good this year. How is Rudolph? How is Mrs. Claus? Would you bring me a WWE Money in the Bank Ring with 2 bonus figures and Zero Gravity Mike? Please remember the needy boys and girls too. We have a pretty Christmas tree. I will leave you some cookies and milk. Love, Moises Gonzales

Dear Santa,

How are Rudolph and all the reindeer? I have been good this year. I help my parents all the time. I would like a HMS bike and Wii game for Christmas this year. Don't forget the poor people too!

Love and Merry Christmas! Alexis Sherrill

How are you? I know you are busy right now. How is Rudolph? I have been good this year. I would like an I-Pod and Furry Cat this year. I will leave you some milk and cookies. Merry Christmas and love, Your friend, Hannah Cook

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas to you. I hope Mrs. Claus and all the reindeer are good. Are the elves busy working? I have been good this year. Would you bring me a Shake-N-Go Crash Up Speedway and Need For Speed Undercover this year? Don't forget something for the poor people! Your friend, Jace Brittain

Dear Santa,

How are Rudolph and all the reindeer? I have been good this year. I help my parents all the time. I would like an I-Pod and dog for Christmas this year. Don't forget the poor people Love and Merry Christmas!

Natalie Carter

Dear Santa.

Merry Christmas to all of you at the North Pole. How are Mrs. Claus and all the reindeer? I hope you are not too busy to read this. I have been good this year and Mrs. Moss says so too! Would you bring me a D Rex pet and Nintendo this year? I'll leave you some cookies on the table.

Love, your friend, Alden Ar-

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

from all of us!

Ferguson ACE Hardware

2267 Lincolnton Highway

Cherryville, NC 28021

704-435-3713

How are you? How is Mrs. Claus and all the reindeer? Mrs. Moss says I have been good this year. Really! Is it cold up

there? I would like you to bring me a Nerf and Nintendo DS this year. I will leave a carrot for Rudolph by the chimney. Merry Christmas.

Your friend, Joey Pichalsky

Dear Santa,

How are you? I know you are busy right now. How is Rudolph? I have been good this year. I would like a Tribot Radio Control Robot and Nintendo DS game system this year. I will leave you some milk and cookies.

Merry Christmas. Your friend, Johnny Stafford

Dear Santa.

How are you? I know you are busy right now. How are your little elves? I have been good this year. I would like a House On Wheels and a baby horse for my baby sister this year. I will leave you some milk and

Merry Christmas. Your friend, Brianna Davis

Mrs. Campbell's 2nd grade

Dear Santa,

How are you? I know you are busy right now. How is Rudolph? I have been good this year. I would like a trampoline, a soccer ball and a Girl gourmet cupcake maker this year. I will leave milk and cookies. Merry Christmas, Zoie Am-

Dear Santa,

How are you? I know you are busy right now. How is Rudolph? I have been good this year. I would like a blue scooter, Littlest Pet Shop watch, and a Flippin Frog game this year. I will leave you some milk and cookies. Merry Christmas, Gabby Berry

Dear Santa.

How are you? How is Mrs. Clause and all the reindeer? Is it cold at the North Pole? My parents say I have been good this year. I would like you to bring me a scooter, a cell phone and a purse. I'll leave a carrot for Rudolph and you some hot cocoa by the chimney. Your friend, Niya Bush

How are you? How is Mrs. Claus and all the reindeer? Is it cold at the North Pole? My parents say I have been good this year. I would like you to bring me a Nintendo DS, a guitar, and a skate board. I'll leave a carrot for Rudolph and you some hot cocoa by the chimney. Your friend, Kateln Cathey

Dear Santa.

I know everyone at the North Pole is very busy. I would like to have legos, a go-cart, and a battle fort this year. I have tried to be good. Remember to bring something to the poor children, Your friend, Andrew Clark

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas to you! I hope Mrs. Claus and all the reindeer are good. Are the elves busy working? I have been good this year. Would you bring me a Nintendo DS, Play-Doh Magic swirl Ice Cream Shoppe, Tini puppin designer plush puppy this year? Don't forget something for my sisters. Love, Faith Dobbins

Dear Santa,

How are you? How is Mrs. Claus and all the reindeer? Is it cold at the North Pole? My parents say I have been good this year. I would like you to bring me a Hannah Montana doll, Pixos super studio, and an Easy Bake Oven. I'll leave a carrot for Rudolph and you some hot cocoa by the chimney.

Merry Christmas! Your friend, Savannah Hance

How are you? I know you are busy right now. How is Rudolph? I have been good this year. I would like a Wii, Nintendo DS, and High School Musical Movies this year. I will leave you some milk and cook-

Christmas, Kenny Koschny

Dear Santa,

How are the elves? I hope you are ready for the trip. My teacher says I have been good this year. I would like to have Legos, a blue bike, and Nintendo DS. Have a safe trip. Love. Sean Kostiuk

Dear Santa.

How are you? How is Mrs. Claus and all the reindeer? Is it cold in the North Pole? My parents say I have been good this year. I would like you to bring me a Wii, High School Musical 3 Dance Game, and Dinner Dash game, I'll leave a carrot for Rudolph and you some hot cocoa by the chimney. Your friend, Sydney Narron

Merry Christmas to you. I hope Mrs. Claus and all the reindeer are good. Are the elves busy working? I have been good this year. Would you bring me a Wii, a snake and a gun this year? Don't forget something

Love, Jacob Paris

Dear Santa.

I know everyone at the North Pole is very busy. I would like to have a gameboy, littlest pet shop and a High School Musical doll this year. I have tried to be good. Remember to bring something to the poor children. Your friend, Madison Philbeck

Dear Santa,

How are you? How is Rudolph? I have been good this year. I would like a dirt bike, a Transformer Octamus Prime, and a Hotwheel game for DS. Love, William Ricardo.

Dear Santa,

How are you? I know you are busy right now. How is Rudolph? I have been good this year. I would like a PSP, XBOX 360 and a Wii this year. I will leave some milk and cookies. Merry Christmas, Dillon Robinson.

Dear Santa,

How are you? I know you are busy right now. How is Rudolph? I have been good this year. I would like a Nintendo DS, dirt bike, and a guitar hero this year. I will leave you some milk and cookies.

Merry Christmas! Cooper Sain

Dear Santa,

How are you? I know you are busy right now. How is Rudolph? I have been good this year. I would like a PSP, trampoline, and a Pokemon ball this year. I will leave you some milk and cookies

Merry Christmas, Andrew Shrewsbury

Dear Santa,

I know everyone a the North Pole is very busy. I would like to have an Ipod, camera, and a blue bike this year. I have tried to be good. Remember to bring something to the poor children. Your friend, Rachel Westberry

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas to you. I hope Mrs. Claus and all the reindeer are good. Are the elves busy working? I have been good this year. Would you bring me a Nintendo DS, Play Station, and a trampoline this year? Don't forget something for my dog, Bear. Love Justin Lemons

Dear Santa, How are you? I know you are busy right now. How is Rudolph? I have been good this year. I would like a pink scooter, puppy and Nintendo DS. Don't forget something for my brothers. Love, Alexis Ferguson

Coping with the Holidays after

the Loss of a Loved One

Dear Santa,

I hope things are not too busy at the North Pole. Would you bring ma a red guitar, a Nintendo DS and a trampoline with a net this year? I have been good. Remember to bring my brothers and sister something. Love, Brittney Hudspeth

Dear Santa.

How are the elves? I hope you are ready for the trip. My teacher says I have been good this year. I would like to have a Bratz House and car, Bratz drum set and doll.

Merry Christmas, Joyce Wood\ Mrs. Burgess and Mrs. Farris' Kindergarten Class

Cherryville Elementary School

Dear Santa,

Please bring me a trampoline and a swingset. You will get peanuts and cookies and M&Ms.

Jayson LaFurge

Dear Santa, Please bring me a castle, a real big horse, and a dog. You will get cookies and milk. Macy Bridges

Dear Santa, I would love to get a Nintendo DS and a little moving puppy in a case. I am being very good in

school. Lizbet Castillo

Dear Santa,

Please, I would like to get an alarm clock and a baby doll. Have a good Christmas. I will give you cookies and milk.

Addie Seate Dear Santa.

I want a Sonic on a Leash and a motorcycle. I have been good. I helped my Nana decorate her Christmas tree and I helped my mommy clean up for Christmas. I love you Santa and Mrs.

Dawson Long

Dear Santa,

Please bring me a scooter and Spike the dinosaur. Please give your reindeer and Rudolph a hug from me. Jackson Smith

Dear Santa.

I want a Wii and a pop-up book. I am really excited for Christmas; tell all your elves "hello." I will give your reindeer carrots and you some milk and cook-

Love, Sierra Lawing

Dear Santa,

Please bring me a guitar and a toy robot. Santa, thank you for



The weeks between Thanksgiving and the New Year can be both joyful and stressful. While we often find warmth and comfort in our family traditions, for someone who has recently experienced the death of a loved one, family traditions can make their grief all the more poignant, and tackling the season's "to dos" cna seem an impossible chore. But there are things that can be done to help those that grieve cope

with the holidays. The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) offers the following suggestions for those grieving this holiday season:

Take care of yourself, both physically and mentally. The pace of the holiday season can wear anyone out, but carrying the weight of loss on your shoulders can amplify your stress. Make sure you are getting enough sleep, eating properly, and taking time

for yourself. Unburden yourself when and where it's possible. If participating in traditions brings you comfort, by all means do so, but don't be afraid to curb how much you take on this season. For example, perhaps you can be a guest at the family holiday party rather than hosting it this year.

Create a holiday plan. Decide which family traditions you want to take part in this year and plan out your participation. A plan can help you avoid getting caught off guard by unexpected activties or tasks.

Share your memories with

others. The holidays surround us with fond memories. Don't be reluctant to talk about those memories, and the special person who died by name. Sharing memories of your loved one with others can help ebb the loneliness you may

be feeling.

Above all else, do what's right for you. Your family and friends care about you and will most likely offer advice on what you should do. However, you are the only one that can fully understand what you need to make it through the holidays. Take time to outline your needs, then share your plans with your family and friends. Keeping your expectations realistic and letting yourself rely on family and friends will help you through your holiday grief.

For additional information visit www.nfda.org or contact a local NFDA funeral director about holiday aftercare programs. NFDA funeral homes around the country are participating in a national consumer education campaign, For a

Life Worth CelebratingSM, in an effort to help consumers make wise and informed decisions related to funeral service.

NFDA is the leading funeral service association, serving more than 20,300 funeral directors who represent more than 12,200 funeral homes in the United States and

Carpenters Funeral Home

other countries.

"Shaping The Future of Caring" 1100 East Main Street, Cherryville, N.C. 28021 Phone: 704-435-6711 704-435-6848

