

December 9, 2008

Dear HANA:

First of all, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the HANA officers and workers for all the hard work they put into arranging the Christmas Walk. We have lived in this area for almost 18 years now and have enjoyed every one of these walks. I remember telling some of my friends about the walk with the open houses and the first thing they said was "How much does it cost?" When they find out it is free, they can't believe it. I don't think we realize what a wonderful neighborhood we live in. This is a very unique and enjoyable tradition. One we hope will go on and on for generations to come. We remember years back when there were as many as six to ten houses open on this night. We would invite friends for dinner and head out on sometimes a very cold, or a very snowy night, and even a fairly warm night - no matter, it was always very exciting for us. We have friends who now live in Florida that still remind us of the wonderful night they spent walking our neighborhood and enjoying the beauty and hospitality this neighborhood provided. If you haven't done this walk before, I encourage you to try it.

Secondly, we would like to thank all the lovely ladies (maybe even men) who took time to provide the wonderful cookies that we served. I have so many lovely plastic cookie plates to remember this night, so thank you for your kindness. It was unbelievable to see how many cookies we received. There was certainly something for everyone - from gluten free chocolate chips to rich chocolate cake, cupcakes, gingerbread, even cheese and apples. Wow what a feast! How generous our fellow neighbors are. Thank you!

It was a real pleasure to host this open house. For those of you who came to our home, you can see we don't have the biggest house on the block. It is not a perfect house (if there is such a thing), it certainly isn't a show place; but it is warm, it has a table that accommodates trays of cookies, a place for a coffee pot, cider pot and hot chocolate pot. See, that's all you need. The cost to open our house was minimal. We did decide to use a sticky plastic on our carpet so people didn't have to take off their shoes. This we bought at Home Depot for approximately \$30.00. This covered our front room and dining room carpet and still had some left if we needed more. This worked wonderfully - it was not slippery and it really did the job. Aside from some hot chocolate and coffee, everything else was provided for us by HANA. Thank You.

In ending, we want to say thank you to all the neighbors who attended. We had such an enjoyable night, meeting new neighbors, seeing old neighbors and talking to each of you. This has started our Christmas this year in a warm and memorable way - so thank you to all of you who took the time to stop by and say "hello". Have a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year. We hope to see you next year when you open your home - you won't regret it. We know this will not be our last open house....it was a blast! Thanks everyone!!!!

Al, Linda, Dan, Mike and Jonathan Jenk