

# All aboard for the 'Polar Express'

By **JERRY BEARD**  
PHOTOGRAPHER

The Charlotte County Historic Courthouse was transformed into the North Pole, on Wednesday, Dec. 5, in Punta Gorda. The event featured stops on the "Polar Express" throughout the building, each with an activity for kids to participate in. After completing all activities, children had a photo-op with Santa, played by Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Paul Stamoulis. The event was free, and staffed by volunteers from the Supervisor of Elections Office.



HERALD PHOTOS BY JERRY BEARD

**Britney Romo and five-year-old Giavanna Romo, sit by the "fire."**



**Two-year-old Amir Lewis writes a letter to Santa with help from Jeanette Laurain.**

**Above: Five-year-old Kylie Parr sits by the "fire."**

**Left: Seven-year-old Annabelle Hopkins, stands near the "Grinch Tree."**

**Right: Four-weeks-old Michael Finn Gordon (left), and twin Heidi Rose Gordon, rest with Santa (Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Paul Stamoulis)**





**Nine-month-old Wade Parr holds on to mommy, Bailey Parr, as they walk near the veterans "Honor Tree."**



**Volunteers Angelina Warn (left) and Kylie Caparo.**



**Volunteers R.J. Whitney (left) and Maya Lopez, sit with Dane (from left), James, Emma and Keira Tefft.**



**Volunteer Chrisann Warn (from left), Gino and Millie Treppiedi and volunteer William Richert.**