

# Greater Huntsville Section Elves Lend Santa a Hand

By Ken Philippart

All images courtesy of Lisa Philippart.



Greater Huntsville Section members and families

Started in 2013 by AIAA member and Mindgear Labs owner Rob Adams, Santa's Lab is a charitable program to design, produce, assemble and distribute toys to disadvantaged children throughout the greater Huntsville area. Mindgear and other donors provide the materials while volunteers design and fabricate the toys. The volunteers use Mindgear's design and fabrication tools free of charge to make toys.

In place of their scheduled December meeting, the Greater Huntsville Section Council met at Mindgear Labs to become Santa's helpers for the evening. The group's seamstress elves immediately began making personalized elf hats to get everyone in the proper mood. The rest of the group used previously-developed designs to run the laser printer to cut out wooden parts and then painted the pieces to assemble toys such as chess sets, building blocks, and dinosaur skeletons.

Members, families and guests of the Greater Huntsville Section Council rolled up their sleeves to give old St. Nick a hand on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The group donned elf hats to fabricate, assemble and paint toys for disadvantaged children as part of Santa's Lab.





As everyone knows, elves' work makes you thirsty and works up an appetite. After assembling toys for a couple of hours, the group adjourned to a local Mexican restaurant for food, drink and some Christmas cheer.

Thank you to the following volunteers:  
Rob Adams, Ken and Lisa Philippart, Kurt Polzin, Cody Crofford, Matt Sclafani, Tia and Kate Ferguson, Neal and Jayme Allgood,, Carla Shackelford and family, Brandon and Nicole

Stiltner, John Lassiter, Colin Moynihan, Michael Dunning, Megan Rogers, Eric Becnel, Jennifer Hunt, Paromita Mitra, Gary Agranat, and Alan Lowrey.

What better way for engineers to celebrate the Season of Giving then using their skills to help Santa give children a very Merry Christmas?