



1963 YEARS 2013

GERALD R. FORD
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Gerald R. Ford International Airport

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2, 2014

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Santa to Visit GFIA During 20th Annual Holiday Music Festival



Grand Rapids, MI – The Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) is getting into the holiday spirit with a music festival, and a visit from Santa Claus.

Kris Kringle will be listening to children’s requests, and passing out candy canes in the Airport’s Grand Hall **from 1 - 4 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10th**. The event is free and the public is welcome to attend. Visitors are encouraged to bring a camera to snap a photo with Santa Claus. Photos with Santa are free of charge, but the airport is asking guests to bring in two non-perishable food items per person.

In addition to Santa’s appearance, GFIA’s traditional Holiday Music Festival is running the week of December 8-12th. The 20th Annual Holiday Music Festival brings in middle and high school choirs from around West Michigan singing a variety of Christmas carols. Daily performances run from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. A total of 18 local choirs representing public, charter and private schools sing 20 minute song sets throughout the day, putting passengers and guests at GFIA in the holiday spirit.

“Our airport is extremely busy around the holidays, but it is important for us to reflect upon what this season is all about,” said GFIA Executive Director Brian Ryks. “We are



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hoping we can put some smiles on children’s faces as they sit on Santa’s lap and listen to carols, and at the same time we are asking West Michigan to give back to the community by donating non-perishable food items to those in need.”

The donated items will go to Loaves & Fishes – a food pantry operated by Catholic Charities West Michigan.

“Without the support we receive from our generous community members we would not be able to do the work we do,” said Terry Walsh, President and CEO of Catholic Charities West Michigan. “We thank everyone who takes a moment during this busy time to share with those who are in need.”

For interview or photo requests, please contact Tara Hernandez.

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