

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH **757**'S SANTA CLAUS

Barry Miller was born in 1962 in Williamsburg, Virginia and raised in Norge, a Scandinavian community, a few miles west of Williamsburg, with his older brother Alan. After some challenging earlier years, Barry's life was transformed when he met Tina in 2001, and together they raised their merged family of three daughters in Chesterfield, Virginia - more than an hour west of Williamsburg, where they still reside.

Fast forward to April 2016 when Moose Lodge 757 then-Governor Alan Miller sponsored his brother Barry into the lodge. While **"Big Al"** had played the perfect Santa for three years at the lodge, being extremely hot-blooded, the task of growing his beard every year was overheating him, so he asked little brother, Barry, to take over. Even though Barry had never acted in this iconic role, he immediately began the transformation by growing his beard to fulfill the Christmas 2016 responsibility. He has since established that beard growing season is calculated at nine months, following up with visits to Tina's hairdresser in late November for a dye job - which includes a two-session process to attain the snowy white appearance.

Since his 2016 initial Santa portrayal, Barry also serves as Santa Claus for the Chesterfield Pregnancy Center (of which Tina is Chairperson), the Elmcroft Assisted Living Facility, and Hyde Park Low Income Housing (referred by Chester Christian Church, their house of worship). Barry truly starts getting into character after Halloween by wearing red shirts with his suspenders, and he thrills **little ones with "Santa sightings"** while he is out in the community! Barry and Tina then spend the full December weekend in Williamsburg while playing at the Adult and the Kiddie Christmas Parties at Lodge 757. During that busy weekend, Santa has even been known to make house calls.

While getting ready for his December **role, the Miller's volunteer throughout the year.** It tears at his heart to see a family in need, so Barry enjoys paying it forward any chance he gets, whether it is at a grocery store or fast-food restaurant, or handing over his change to a needy person on the street corner. Barry also works **on remodeling projects and "honey do" lists for those that ask** - and he never submits a bill. For ten years, Barry and Tina have been travelling to Knoxville, Tennessee on a church mission trip to help at a center for adults with various disabilities. And, for the record, besides her work at the Chesterfield Pregnancy Center, Tina also sings in her church choir and finds time to sing in a band. Tina joined the Williamsburg WOTM Chapter #1755 in 2016 and is still identified for her legendary charitable undertaking - crocheting nineteen afghans displaying the Mooseheart school colors - one for each student in the June 2017 Mooseheart graduating class!

Today, the couple are proud grandparents of three granddaughters and two grandsons and continue to enjoy a wonderful relationship with their adult children and extended family, who understand **that Santa needs "helpers" throughout the Christmas season** - which explains why grandpa looks so much like the big guy at the North Pole.

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2016



2017

The Endowment Fund bucket sits next to Santa every year. Donations are accepted in return for a chance to sit on Santa's lap.



2018



2019



Note: WOTM Barbara Waterman has served as the faithful Mrs. Claus since 2014.



Tina Miller crocheted 19 afghans - one for each of the graduating seniors in the Mooseheart Class of 2017