



Reception Honors Unaccompanied Tour Families

In December, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton hosted a “Diplomacy at Home for the Holidays” reception honoring the families of U.S. government employees, including almost 1,000 State Department staff, serving tours in the 17 posts considered unsafe for their families to join them or host visitors. The effort was organized by the Office of the Chief of Protocol and Family Liaison Office, and funded by the magazines *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Mother Earth News*, *Natural Home*, *This Old House* and *Traditional Home*.

The day-long event included a tour for families of Blair House, the President’s guest house, and a reception with Secretary Clinton in the Diplomatic Reception Rooms of the Harry S Truman Building. Both locations had been decorated for the holidays by magazine staff members, local decorators and volunteers.

Family members listened to the Air Force String Quartet, Holton-Arms Upper School Handbell Choir and the Washington Performing Arts Society’s Children of the Gospel Choir. Secretary Clinton told attendees their loved ones are engaged in some of the Department’s most important work.

“They’re engaging communities, strengthening institutions [and] reaching out to civil society,” she said. “They’re keeping our diplomats, our development experts and other Americans safe.”

Children with parents serving unaccompanied tours surround Secretary Clinton at the reception.