

# City Socia

The Area's Premier Social Magazine

And as the book explains, "The best present was that people started seeing that special part of Jesus inside each other's hearts."

According to Claire, "This book is a way for parents to connect two beloved traditions and teach that the 'real meaning of Christmas' is to recognize the light of Christ within us all." As many parents today struggle with helping their children to understand the true meaning of Christmas, Claire's book may be just the tool for which they've been looking.

*How Christmas Began* (ISBN 0-9706732-1-3, \$18.50) is published by Shell Beach Publishing and is available for purchase in Baton Rouge at Cottonwood Books on Perkins Road, Victoria's Toy Station on Government Street, and at Paper n' Things on Jefferson Highway. It can also be purchased from Claire's Web site: [www.cbcdmc.com](http://www.cbcdmc.com).

the boy he had a best friend named Drew," Claire said, "and I talked about Jesus and Santa Claus. I was a little bit hip to Drew and one of

*How Christmas Began*, a heartfelt story with charming illustrations by a graduate of St. Joseph's College, tells the Savannah College story of how Santa and Jesus decide to find out how the world lives with Jesus in their own world. The list created by Santa, "I'll be there on your birthday with those who love you." This prompts the two biggest birthday parties in the world.

As why Santa is watching people really looking for. It's not the toy commercials and holiday shopping for the love of Jesus in the excitement of Christmas gifts—that's what people want. Jesus and Santa



### Where's My Elf Hat?

"Fifteen years ago a friend of mine gave me a little hat that belonged to an elf she called 'Elfie.' This elf has visited our home beginning the Monday after Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve every year

since," explained Mabyn Shingleton. Mabyn and her husband, WBRZ's chief forecaster, Pat, spun this tale of the special elf visits as a way to engage their children in the fun and excitement of Christmas. "The way our children knew if their elf had visited the North Pole and

returned to see them was if his magical hat had moved. So, every morning, the first thing the children did was look to see where in the house the elf hat was," said Mabyn. "Some mornings it was in the windowsill, on a candlestick, by their bed, and so on." While the hat didn't move every day, some mornings there would be a note from their elf stuck in the hat or some other little surprise when they found it. Elfie became a sort of pen-pal to the kids and has been a Shingleton family tradition ever since.

With their children getting older, Mabyn and Pat decided to share their special family tradition with the world, and they are doing so through a unique little product they call, "Where's My Elf Hat?" Inside the package is a tiny little elf hat and 14 pages of "Santa's Elf Kit." In addition, Mabyn has set up a Web site ([www.elfhats.com](http://www.elfhats.com)) where users can find more resources for making their adventures even more fun and creative for their children.

"Where's My Elf Hat?" sells for \$9.95 and is available in Baton Rouge at Cullen's Playland, Christmas Shoppe, Party Paradise, Paper n' Things and Cracker Barrel convenience stores. It can be purchased through the Web site. ☎

