

RDU Session Players and



John Santa is an author.

He wrote **Bluegrass Is My Second Language: A Year In The Life Of An Accidental Bluegrass Musician.**

But he never expected writing a book would have him trying to raise TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS for charity just because of one of his READERS!!!

See, Karen Rawlings bought a book from John's web site www.bluegrassbook.com.

John sent her an email asking if he could inscribe the book for her. She said yes, and so John wrote a note in the book to Karen's husband Greg congratulating him on marrying a woman smart enough to give a copy of John's book as a 20th wedding anniversary present!

A few weeks later, John got an email from Greg that contained a lengthy REVIEW of the book (he LIKED it) and Greg expressed the hope that he might get to play music with the author one day.

Well the two of them have had more than a few late night jam sessions since that first email back in June and John became good friends with Karen, Greg and their three kids who live in Southern Pines.

Then, in December, the author found out that his pickin' buddy the mandolin player, who just happened to be Lt. Col. Greg Rawlings stationed at Ft. Bragg, was going to be sent to back to Iraq for a 15 month tour. The author went to him and reminded the Colonel about a section in the book where the author describes a yearly event when the RDU Session Players play for a worthy charity. John asked if there was anything Greg and his unit needed cause the Session Players wanted to play for them this year as a show of support and to make a

statement as one of their own went into harm's way.

Greg discussed this proposition with his unit and folks around Ft. Bragg and the consensus was they were all fine, but they sure would appreciate it if the Session Players would consider playing for the Fisher House Organization.

If a soldier comes back from duty hurt, they are sometimes placed in hospitals far away from their homes and families. Staying in a hotel for many nights, on ANYONE'S budget let alone that of a soldier, would place a huge drain on a family. Fisher House (www.fisherhouse.org) is a place where the family can come and get room and board for about ten dollars a day.

Needless to say, the Session Players are very proud to be playing for the Fisher House organization in general and the **FT. BRAGG FISHER HOUSE** in particular as ***EVERY SINGLE CENT THEY RAISE WILL NOT ONLY STAY IN NORTH CAROLINA, IT WILL GO TO THE FISHER HOUSE IN FAYETTEVILLE.***

The event will be held on January 19th from noon to midnight at the American Legion hall in Chapel Hill. Those who would like to help can sponsor a player at the rate of so many dollars for each hour the musician plays and thus make a donation to the Ft Bragg Fisher House. Pledge forms and further information are available at www.bluegrassbook.com.

So THAT is how an Author ends up becoming a Fund Raiser, and all because of a Reader!

And by the way, five dollars from all books purchased through the web site on January 19th will be donated to the Ft. Bragg Fisher House!