High school students to bring cheer

The spirit of Christmas, tied up in a neat bow sparkling with holiday skits, caroling and decoration of a tree, will arrive 12 days early for the mentally retarded children at Willowbrook State School.

Santa's "helpers" are a group of 25 students at Tottenville High School. Running the show is 17-year-old Charles Ackerman of Richmond Valley, a senior and treasurer of Interact, a group of young men who entertain shut-ins in hospitals, conduct fund drives and aid mentally ill and handicapped children.

Twelve girls, twirlers and cheerleaders at Tottenville High have volunteered to assist the boys at Saturday's 2 p.m. show at the state school.

Charles has rented a Santa suit for the occasion. He will also narrate Clement C. Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Another skit, "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," will be performed and music will round out the holiday show.