

The Charlestown Police Department helped to make Christmas morning a little brighter for 20 local first graders on Thursday night, December 15. Officers and volunteers met at the Arts & Enrichment Center in Charlestown before heading to Walmart in Clarksville for a little shopping and fun during the department's Christmas With A Cop event.

The first graders from Jonathan Jennings and Pleasant Ridge Elementary Schools filled their shopping carts with needed clothes such as jeans, hoodies, pajamas and sweatshirts plus shoes and boots before hitting the toy aisle for the finishing touches. Carts piled high with remote control cars, baby dolls, movies, basketballs and even new bikes made their way to the checkout lanes in record time.

Anthony Snell, Coordinator for Charlestown Police Department's Christmas With A Cop Program, was pleased with the shopping event. Snell is in his third year coordinating the program.

"I want to thank all the wives and girlfriends of the officers who helped us shop and the volunteers who helped us shop for the kids," Snell stated.

After filling the carts and getting through the checkout lane, the kids, officers and volunteers traveled back to the Arts & Enrichment Center for a nice meal. Copper Kettle donated a portion of the food for the evening while the ladies from the VFW volunteered their time to prepare the food and decorate the A&E.

"I also want to thank Donna Carpenter. She always goes with me to Sam's to get the other items to complete the meal," Snell added.

Snell continued, "I also want to thank Teresa Wimsatt, the bus driver, and Kenny McDaniel for playing Santa for like 30 years. I also want to thank Don Garr and U-Haul for donating the truck and Walmart for the donation of cookies, milk and juice and the monetary donation to the program."

Jay C donated a vegetable tray, fruit tray and chicken strips tray.

Snell was also quick to thank Busy Bee Cakery and Tonya Hall for their donations.

"I also want to thank Lindsey Wolff and Diane Bertram of Busy Bee Cakery for their donation of a cake and Tonya Hall for the donation of the cupcakes," Snell said.

Snell also thanked Family Dollar and all the local businesses who made donations to this year's Christmas With A Cop program and all those citizens who donated during the road blocks held for the program.

Charlestown Police collect for the department's Christmas With A Cop program all year. If you would like to make a donation please mail the donation to the Charlestown Police Department, 701 Main Street, Charlestown, IN 47111. Please make a note in the memo line of your check "Christmas With A Cop."