

Monday evening, December 10, 25 very excited kids from throughout Clark County met at the Clark County Courthouse. These kids were all ready to meet their hero of the evening and spend some time with a local law enforcement officer during the Clark County FOP Lodge #181 Cops for Kids event.

The local children boarded a school bus, driven by Phyllis Gentry, and headed to Walmart in Clarksville. Once they arrived they paired up with their shopping buddy and headed out to fill their carts full of the necessities like new coats, shoes, clothes, gloves and socks and then hit the toy aisle for the fun stuff. The Clark County FOP Lodge #181 was able to spend over \$7,200 to help make the children's Christmas a little merrier this year. The money was donated to the program by local businesses throughout the year.

Clark County FOP Lodge #181 Cops for Kids Coordinator Joe Waters was pleased with how the event went.

"I always say this is my last year coordinating the event, then when we start shopping and seeing the kids all excited, I know it is all worth it. I immediately begin planning for the next year," Waters stated. "I can't thank those involved enough for all their hard work and dedication to the continued success of the program especially Christy O'Neal, who if she ever quits, I would be lost without her."

Many local businesses donated to the success of this year's Cops for Kids program. Waters wanted to send a special thank you to Clark County Auto Auction, Walmart in Clarksville, Buckets Bar & Grill, VIP Printing, Lakeside Reflections, Clark County Conservation Club, Hartland Payment Systems and the officers, wives and friends of the Clark County FOP Lodge #181.

"We have a lot of people who help make this happen every year. The Clark County Auto Auction, Walmart, I really appreciate the staff and Mike King. Tim, Mark, Daniella, the managers, were all very instrumental in the success of the shopping. Buckets Bar & Grill hosts an annual car show for Cops for Kids and Breast Cancer Awareness the first Saturday in November," Waters explained, who is in his seventh year as Coordinator of the Cops for Kids program. "Phyllis Gentry always donates her time and the bus for the past 20 years. She is retiring this year so I wanted to honor her for all she has done. We presented her with a plaque during the dinner this year. The plaque was donated by George Roberts and VIP Printing."

After filling their shopping carts full of goodies, the children are then treated to a nice home-cooked meal at Lakeside Reflections.

"Lakeside Reflections and Brenda Nickles always makes sure we have a delicious dinner after shopping. All the employees at Lakeside donate their time. I truly thank them and Brenda for their effort in helping make the program a success."

Waters concluded, "I want to thank everyone who helped with the Cops for Kids program this year. We truly could not help make the kids' Christmas happier without all the help from the community. It take a lot of people working together to make this happen. Each year we are successful because of the good people in Clark County with such caring hearts."

If you would like to make a donation to the Clark County FOP Lodge #181 Cops for Kids

Program please send your donation to: Clark County FOP Lodge #181, Cops for Kids, P.O. Box 490, Charlestown, IN 47111.