



Bates County Sheriff's Office

Chad Anderson, Sheriff

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On 12/19/2017, The Bates County Sheriff's Office and the Adrian Police Department met at the Butler Walmart with 43 Bates County area children for the Shop with the Cop program. The Sheriff's Deputies started the local Shop with a Cop program by kicking off No Shave November at the Sheriff's Office. Deputies were allowed to grow beards, which is typically a policy violation, but with a caveat. They had to pay and raise money to take deserving kids shopping for themselves for Christmas. 2016 was the first year and the program was able to raise enough money to shop with 14 kids from our community. That first year made a huge impact on the lives of the Deputies when they were able to give back and saw the faces of the kids that were picked to shop with them. Last year the Deputies pledged to double the amount of kids they wanted to shop for this year.

On Tuesday, the Sheriff's Office, Adrian Police Department and Walmart employees met and began the task of shopping with a total of 43 children from throughout all of Bates County. There were a few children selected that were not able to make it but will still receive donations through the program. The Shop with a Cop program also teamed up with our area medical professionals at the Bates County Memorial Hospital and Medical Clinics for a toy drive. With the Toy donations and funds raised from partnerships with businesses and individual we are able to help 70 children have a great Christmas. When Deputies were asked why the program was important to them, comments were consistent with the season's message. "It's important to give back to the community" one deputy said. "Look at the smiles of these kids, that is what it all about" said another deputy. "What a great day today is, look these kids are having fun" said another deputy. Sheriff Anderson said, "This program is important to not only the community but to all these deputies. Often times we are only having contact with kids or their parents when something is going wrong and we are called to their house to solve those problems. This program allows the children and parents to see our law enforcement in a different light. These kids tonight saw our Law Enforcement in a positive light. They got to see Deputies, Jailers and Dispatchers with smiles on their faces showing them that we care about them." Sheriff Anderson said, "We couldn't have had a successful year in this program if it wasn't for the businesses and people who have so willingly opened their wallets to help us. We have and live in one of the Greatest Communities in this state. We take care of each other and that is why I love Bates County."

Next year the Sheriff's Office has set a goal of reaching over 100 children from the community. Keep an eye out for various fundraisers throughout the year so that we aren't racing at the end of the year to raise money. The Deputies want to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all who contributed to our program.

