## **Press Release**









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**Ashley Hardison, Public Information Officer Ph.** 386.752.4343

## 10th Annual "Shop with a Cop" Program

Earlier in December, the Lake City Police Department proudly concluded its 10th annual "Shop with a Cop", continuing its tradition of spreading holiday cheer and fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and the youth community. This heartwarming initiative, generously grant-funded by the local Walmart and supported by the Walmart Distribution Center, marked a decade of impactful service.

Children are selected for the program by schools and aftercare organizations within city limits, ensuring those who benefit most from the program are given the opportunity to participate. This inclusive approach reflects the commitment of the department to reach children who may face challenges during the holiday season.

Since its inception, "Shop with a Cop" has been a beacon of community engagement, embodying the spirit of giving during the holiday season. This year's event provided a special opportunity for 20 deserving children to shop for holiday gifts alongside dedicated police officers.

The Lake City Police Department extends its gratitude to Walmart and the Walmart Distribution Center for their unwavering support, making it possible to create lasting memories for local families. The grant funding from Walmart has been instrumental in ensuring the success of the program, allowing the police department to continue its dedication to community outreach.

Over the past decade, approximately 300 children have been served through the "Shop with a Cop" program, making a positive impact on the lives of countless families. The program not only provides children with the opportunity to purchase gifts for themselves and their loved ones but also strengthens the bond between law enforcement officers and the community they serve.

"The 'Shop with a Cop' program is a highlight of our year, and we are thrilled to celebrate its 10th anniversary. This program allows us to connect with the community in a meaningful way and bring joy to the lives of children during the holiday season," said Gerald Butler, Chief of Police.

For more information about the Lake City Police Department and its community initiatives, please visit www.lcfla.com/police



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