

Sheriff's Office Christmas Bicycle Program

December 18, 2013

Annual Hall County Sheriff's Office Christmas Bicycle Program

This year like many years past, Hall County Sheriff's Office participated in its annual Christmas Bicycle Program. Over the past 16 years donations have been collected by, Deputies, Staff, the Sheriff's Citizens Academy Alumni and by donations from the community. The intent is to give a young boy or girl a new bicycle and helmet for Christmas, something to call their own.

The history of the program dates back to 1997. A group of sheriff office deputies from various divisions pooled their money together to purchase bicycles for needy families. At that time they were able to purchase ten bicycles. The program has grown so large now that the goal was to raise \$10,000 every year. This amount covers over one hundred new bicycles and new helmets.

The Sheriff's Office contacts area churches, schools, CASA and the local Gateway House to establish contact information for families that may have a need for the program. Finally the families are given the option to either have the bicycle delivered to their homes or to make arrangements to collect the bicycle themselves. This year the Sheriff's Office reached out to the Williams family whom recently fell victim to a house fire. The home was a total loss and one of the children involved was burned in the house fire. "We are excited to say that, that young man is recovering well!" States Deputy Nicole Bailes. The Sheriff's Office donated and delivered three bicycles to that family.

Many thanks go out to our key donators who helped us make this event possible this year: Apple House Auction, Walmart, Greene Ford, Riverside Pharmacy, HCSAAA, King Green of N.E. Georgia, Inc., AAA Bonding, Leon Farmer, Gregory and Patricia Egan and Safe Kids of Gainesville/Hall County. The Sheriff's Office is proud to announce that our goal of \$10,000 dollars this year was met. We were able to purchase 100 bicycles, providing to over 40 families. We will continue to accept donations year round to ensure that our goal is met for next year. If you would like to donate to Hall County Sheriff's Office Bicycle program please contact: Captain Chris Matthews or Sandy Garrett at matthews@hallcounty.org, or sgarrett@hallcounty.org. You may also reach them by phone at 770-531-7095.