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(Neb.)-Shop With A Cop And Other Programs Net Over $30,000 For Community Listen

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 12/19/2012 12:21 PM

(CHADRON)-Christmas brings out the generosity in many people. The Chadron police department's 7th annual Shop with a Cop program is in what officer Aron Chrisman calls possibly the biggest year yet. To date, this year's donations total over $14,700. Last year's event raised around $5,500. The "Guns and Hoses" charity basketball game with the fire department raised about $500, and the Great Lakes Airlines ticket raffle netted about $1,200. White River Feed's "coffee crew" has collected right at $1,162 in their donation bottle, and other donation bottles around town have collected nearly $600.

The Shop with a Cop program provides the opportunity for young people, whose families may not be able to provide much for Christmas, to go shopping with a police officer and pick out some Christmas presents. This year members of the Chadron fire department will be assisting with the shopping as well. Shopping started on December 12th this year and will continue throughout the week.

Last year the program served 180 children. This year officer Chrisman says the department hopes to serve as many young people as they can. Chrisman partnered with teachers, counselors, and other citizens to determine what families are chosen to participate in the program. He also contacted the Chadron Housing Authority for the names of children not yet in the school system.

It's not too late to donate if you have not yet done so. You can drop off your donation at the Chadron police department, or you can bring a toy worth $10 or more to Wahlstrom Ford at the east edge of Chadron and receive a gift in return, a coupon for a free oil change.

The dealership has been partnering with the Chadron PD for four or five years now to help provide presents for kids in need through their "Toys for Tots" program. Owner Rob Wahlstrom says this year's gift-giving just might be bigger than last year. Between 125-150 gifts are nestled under the dealership's tree waiting for the Head Start children, who will stop by the store on Thursday to visit with Santa. Any additional gifts will be given to the police department to distribute. Wahlstrom says it feels good to help others during the holiday season.

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Wahlstrom isn't the only person grateful for the community's generosity. City manager Wayne Anderson said the Shop with a Cop program has received outstanding support. Add to that, people's support of other programs that are working together to provide a brighter holiday for the community, and it gets pretty impressive.

Listen to the story for soundbite

(Questions? Comments? E-mail news@chadrad.com.)

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