

# Holiday Shop with Cops

Children in need from Bladensburg and surrounding communities enjoy Walmart shopping sprees in the Bladensburg Police Department's First Shop With a Cop Event. The Edmonston Police Department as well as many other partnering police departments joined in this event.

By **PGS Media**



This year, Santa wears a badge, and although reindeer are pretty cool, police cruisers are just as fast and get better mileage.

So it came as no surprise that nearly 30 local kids jumped at the chance to ride with their local police officers, who are each known as “Officer Friendly”. December 20<sup>th</sup>, was a great day as these lucky children were treated to shopping sprees as they took part in the Bladensburg Police Department’s first-ever Shop with a Cop event. Dozens of police officers assisted students in purchasing gifts for themselves and their families using \$100 gift cards donated by the officers and the Walmart Foundation.



Before the shopping began, each student received a chauffeured squad car ride from their residence to Bladensburg’s Town Hall. From there, students enjoyed a full police motorcade, complete with lights and sirens, to the Walmart Landover Hills store to receive their gift cards and begin the shopping spree.

“As a police unit, we have a responsibility to develop quality relationships with community members we are sworn to serve,” said Bladensburg Police Department PFC David Calloway.

“This event’s objective is to provide an opportunity for these children to participate in a positive one-on-one experience with law enforcement officers,” said Bladensburg Police Department Community Outreach Coordinator Dana P.J. Duncan. “Today’s program includes children from all walks of life and all races. Each child will receive a gift card to shop for themselves and family members.”

Based on household economic standing, each student is individually recommended by their school counselors in order to participate. Each of Bladensburg’s four elementary schools has multiple students participating.

“We are pleased to be hosting the Bladensburg Police Department’s Shop with a Cop program, a great event which brings together local law enforcement and members of the community for a special day of giving back,” said Walmart’s Landover Hills Shift Manager Tope Enajekpo. “I am fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in events like this and am proud of Walmart’s ongoing commitment to give back to the communities in which we operate.”

Any holiday shopper knows a great shopping day has to be capped off with a great lunch: students were treated to lunch at Bladensburg’s Three Brothers Italian Restaurant before being driven home.

Pretty sweet. Rudolph who?