

Shop with a Cop...continued from Page 1A



The Gold Wing Road Riders Association Chapter GA-J on Monday, Dec. 3, donating funds to the Blairsville Police Department for the Shop with a Cop program.

about 15 children, and we have grown tremendously over the years."

The program is community driven, with community support and donations helping provide the opportunity to the children.

"We have huge community support, with many large organizations donating to the program," said Neely. "We

get our recommendations from Family Connection through the school system.

"We have 100 children here today, which represents 69 families. They get an allotted amount to shop with here, then they get a grocery card to Save-A-Lot as well, and then we have a local church that gives a food basket to each one."

The church that provided the food baskets to families was Fellowship of the Hills in Blairsville.

One of the organizations that helps donate to the program every year is the Blairsville Cruisers, which also puts on a Shop with the Cruisers event every year.

"We started off supporting Shop with a Cop before we set

ours up a few years ago, and we figured that we could reach out to help more kids that way," said Wayne Tanner, one of the founders of the Blairsville Cruisers.

Alongside providing children an opportunity to shop for Christmas, the Shop with a Cop Program also gives each child time to interact and get to know one of Union County's first responders.

Children spend time with the officers while they shop, so the interactions are genuine, as each officer tries to make the child they're helping feel as comfortable as possible.

The officers and children bond together as they move around the store looking for the items that they want most, and laughter and cheer could be heard throughout the store as the groups joked around and shopped together.

Children were given a chance to see the personalities of the officers rather than just the strict law enforcers they are generally made out to be.

Following the shopping, children were treated to a lunch by Chick-fil-A to close out the morning of shopping before returning to their homes.



Lt. Tom Mangifesta with the Union County Sheriff's Office helps a youngster shop for Christmas during Shop with a Cop. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

S.A.F.E. Volunteers of the Quarter

S.A.F.E. would like to recognize two of its passionate volunteers who truly put their heart and soul into helping victims of abuse, Judy Henson and Treva Farris. Both of them have volunteered with S.A.F.E. for several years at the thrift stores, usually several days a week. These gracious ladies spend their time on their feet to give back to a cause they feel is worthy.

Judy, a volunteer of 8 years, says, "I feel blessed that I have been able to contribute in some small way to the cause."

Treva, a volunteer of 16 years feels that "volunteering is good for the soul." She says, "I know in my heart that every hour I volunteer is helping



Judy Henson



Treva Farris

someone who has been abused. When I leave for home each day I feel in my heart I have made a difference."

Thank you Ms. Judy

and Ms. Treva for helping your community and helping S.A.F.E. You have truly made a difference! NTDec12Z10/CA

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 Who is Tom Taylor?
 Tom has been in the insurance business 36 years since his medical retirement from the US Army as a LTC. He has numerous awards, such as LUTCF, LILLI AIA, Lifeleaders of GA & SC, Instructor for new agents. His awards for the Army include Silver Star, Bronze Stars, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Airborne Wings, Air Crew Wings, Air Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Good Conduct Medal, Reservest National Guard Achievement Medal and National Defense Medal recipient.

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