



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BIPD OFFICERS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL *SHOP WITH A COP*

Bainbridge Island, Wash., (December, 2017) Last Saturday, police officers from across Kitsap and Mason Counties got the opportunity to make the season merrier for 140 children as part of the annual *Shop with a Cop* program.

The children were escorted in buses by Kitsap County Sheriff Officers to Walmart, where they were greeted by deputies and officers from across the two counties. Each child had \$125 to spend on whatever they wanted, as long as their purchase included either a pair of shoes or a warm winter coat. Many children also chose to purchase gifts for family members, which were later wrapped by Santa's elves. Children also got to have their picture taken with Santa, and receive a winter hat directly from the big guy himself. After shopping each child also received a bag of goodies that included a hot dog, candy, ornaments, and other kid toys.

“This annual event is a favorite for the officers of the Bainbridge Island Police Department,” said Chief Matthew Hamner. “One of the most satisfying acts of service is being able to bring joy to a child in need during the Christmas season.”

The event was attended by ten members of the Bainbridge Island Police Department including: Chief Matthew Hamner, Deputy Chief Jeff Horn, Officer Joshua Buonvino, Officer Carla Sias, Officer Chuck Kazer, Officer Gary Koon, Officer John Ledbetter, Officer Cameron Lewis, Officer Dale Johnson, and Senior Police Clerk Kelly Eisenhood. This year was the first year that children from Bainbridge Island participated in the annual event. The Boys & Girls Club of Bainbridge Island identified nine children to participate in the program.



Figure 1- BIPD Officer Joshua Buonvino with Jacob Jacobson, age 13



Figure 2- BIPD Officer Chuck Kazer with Emmanuel Rivas, age 9

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