

From the desk of Officer Marshall Morehead

Shop with Santa's Heroes

Lights flashing! Horns blaring and sirens wailing! What's going on in Walterboro? Phones are ringing and Face book is going crazy as fire trucks marked police cruisers and several other unmarked police and sheriffs units travel down Bells Hwy. towards Wal-Mart and then later to Burger King. Any one paying attention would have been hard pressed to miss the reason for the convoy. All you would've had to do was look up into the cab of one of the fire trucks or police vehicles and seen the smiling face of a young child and instantly you should know, shopping with Santa's heroes.

I know that we as Law Enforcement and Fire Emergency personnel get the opportunity to help people on the community every day, however most people in the community don't always see it as help. For example we get to help make the roads safer by enforcing the speed limits and making sure people who have drank too much are not driving, we get to help by showing people how to prevent fires and use fire extinguishers and we get to help make neighborhoods safer by our presence. Even though we all know that those are ways to help people I think we can all agree that nothing has the impact like what we got to do this past Saturday. Shop with Santa's Heroes is a chance for Law Enforcement and Fire Emergency personnel to make a direct difference in a child's life.

For those of you who are not familiar with the program I'll explain. People and businesses throughout the community donate funds to Walterboro Public Safety for Shop with Santa's Heroes. Those funds are then used to provide a group of children, from the Department of Social Services, a chance to have something for Christmas where they might not have otherwise. In some cases the Christmas provided by Shop with Santa's Heroes is all these children get. The children go to Wal-Mart with their escort and get a chance to pick out their Christmas. While there were some toys in the buggies, I was glad to see coats, shoes and other clothing items as well. After meeting Santa at Wal-Mart the kids get back into the emergency vehicles and make the short trip to Burger King where Mr. Bill Cook (owner) and Kim Stroble (manager) treated them to crowns, smiles and a Burger King breakfast.

I know I get accused of being a little preachy in my column sometimes, but if that doesn't bring you back to the "real reason" for the season I don't know what will. This is one of those times when the community and your emergency personnel get to work hand in hand and help one another in order to make Walterboro and Colleton a better place. I would like to once again offer a special thank you to Burger King, Wal-Mart, local businesses and citizens for donating to this cause. And to Colleton County Fire Rescue, Colleton County Sheriff's Office and my own officer's from Walterboro Public Safety, for not only donating their time this Saturday, but for toeing the line (that thin red/blue line) every day and every night so that we can all have a little more peace of mind. Thank you again for your time and for helping us to better serve you.