



MEDIA RELEASE

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Bringing Cheer to Local Children with the Holiday Shop with a Cop Event

GURNEE - The Gurnee Fraternal Order of Police and Gurnee Mills have partnered to sponsor this year's Shop with a Cop program. The event was held on Sunday, December 12, 2021, in a private space within Gurnee Mills and provided access for children to shop within the mall. Gurnee officers were partnered with 70 children to shop for clothing and toys this holiday season. This marks the largest number of families to participate in the program since its inception in 2015.

Families were notified in advance of the event and gathered at Gurnee Mills for breakfast and a visit with Santa before being paired with a Gurnee Police Officer for shopping. The children, aged infant to 17-years-old, had an opportunity to play games, make holiday crafts, and visit with officers throughout the event.

Since 2015, The Gurnee Fraternal Order of Police has worked with local teachers and social service agencies to nominate the participating families based on social and economic needs. Police officers and department staff from the Gurnee Police Department worked alongside the Gurnee Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association to volunteer their time and dedicate resources to help area children and their families for this special event. The program helps make the holidays a little brighter for children in the community who would not be able to celebrate the holiday season.

Event organizer and Gurnee FOP President, Jason Kalinowski, was elated with the success of this year's event. "We are grateful for another year of creating holiday joy for the children and families of our community. The support of our community, especially Gurnee Mills, allows us to bring over 70 participants to Shop with a Cop this year. The relationships we will build with these families will not only be a highlight for their holiday but will create lasting memories for our officers. The smiles and happiness these children experience when picking out their favorite presents encourage us to build upon this event year after year."

The Gurnee Fraternal Order of Police hosts several fundraising events throughout the year to help support the program along with private donations. For questions or more information about the event, please contact Gurnee FOP President Jason Kalinowski at 847-599-7081.