## **Community**



## Shop With a Hero!

DECEMBER 15TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Shop With a Hero!

Written by Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor

**Dexter, Missouri -** "Shop With a Hero" program helped more than 300 children with gifts this holiday season. The event took place in three different stages at the Wal-Mart store in Dexter. Children were divided into groups of 100 and each shopped with a HERO!

Firefighters, police officers, probation and parole officers, highway patrol, and EMT's dressed in their best uniforms drove to Wal-Mart and volunteered their time to help children shop for their favorite toys. Each child was given \$75 to shop with and Santa took time out of his busy schedule to greet them.

It was emotional for some of the emergency responders as each child was assigned a "HERO"! Some were grinning and laughing, others a little tear in the corner of their eye, but each HERO was happy to help a child who was less fortunate than others this holiday season.

Several emergency personnel from Stoddard County decided to make Christmas a little brighter for underprivileged children and now 13 years later they are still able to bring joy to children of Stoddard County.

Over \$22,000 was donated to Shop With A Hero from fundraisers, individual contributions and business donations. Debbie Juden, Wal-Mart Manager in Dexter is a

huge supporter of this worthy organization.

The program is for youngsters 3 to 10 years of age and if you are interested in donating or volunteering please contact Carol Moreland at 573-624-9086. Shop With a Hero is a wonderful way to help the children of our community.

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