



Oakland County Sheriff's Office Spreads Holiday Cheer through Community Programs *Sheriff's Re-CYCLE for Kids, "Coats for the Cold", and Shop with a Cop Bring Smiles*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 30, 2009 (Oakland County) – Oakland County Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard today announced that many of Oakland County residents' holidays were a little brighter thanks to the generosity of the community who has supported the Sheriff's Office community programs "Coats for the Cold," Sheriff's Re-CYCLE for Kids, and Shop with a Cop.

"Because of the generous donations of citizens throughout the county, we were able to deliver warm winter coats to thousands of our residents at no cost," said Sheriff Bouchard. "Additionally, over 200 bicycles were given to kids through our Re-CYCLE for Kids program as part of holiday gift giving programs. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to assist, especially in light of the growing need in our community."

Donations came in from all over the county in every shape, size and style. As in previous years, schools and businesses from around the county all played a part in helping to collect coats. And for the fifth year in a row, PODS (Portable On Demand Storage) donated the use of their PODS, and Stevens Worldwide VanLines donated boxes to collect coats at various sites throughout the county. Sheriff Bouchard started this project 23 years ago and thanks to wonderful, growing partnerships with the community, it continues to be successful every year.

The coats were delivered to the following charitable organizations who are now distributing the coats to those most in need at no cost: Baldwin Church and Center (Pontiac), Easter Seals (Waterford), Grace Centers of Hope (Pontiac), Ladies Charity St Hugo Clothes Closet & Food Pantry (Bloomfield Hills), Lighthouse of Oakland County (Pontiac), Matchan Nutrition Center at St. Vincent De Paul Church (Pontiac), Neighborhood House (Rochester), Judson Center (Royal Oak), Salvation Army (Pontiac), and South Oakland Shelter (Royal Oak).

The Sheriff's Re-CYCLE for Kids program has collected and refurbished used bicycles since 2006. This year, over 200 bicycles were made available to Pontiac Head Start, Pontiac Academy for Excellence, the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, Easter Seals, and the Michigan Department of Human Resources holiday gift giving programs.

Lastly, the Sheriff's Office staff partnered with Holiday Helpers of Rochester Hills for the annual Shop with a Cop program which ensures low-income families in the Rochester Hills area do not go without a Christmas. This year, over 35 children were able to Shop with a Cop during this annual event, which was held at Meijer.

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