

Okaloosa County News Release

12/31/2008

Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us

Cutline: (L-R) Stacy Meyers & Larry Wilson (Beach Safety), Andy Brown, Susan Ramos, Daniel Warburg and Lauren Flanagan (EMS)

Public Safety Toys for Tots Drive at Walmart a Success in Spite of Economy

Okaloosa County Division of Public Safety collected Toys for Tots on Saturday, December 20th at participating Walmarts in Destin and Fort Walton Beach and the response was incredible. Eight shopping carts full of toys and 6 bicycles were among collections in Fort Walton Beach, and Destin received 12 shopping carts full of toys and 12 bicycles. A total of 10 bicycle helmets were collected. "We donated several bicycle helmets remaining from local bicycle safety classes to help make up the difference," stated EMS Chief Al Herndon. "We want the kids to be safe, and it is a requirement when bicycles are donated to also donate a helmet."

"I just want to highlight Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Beach Safety Divisions of Public Safety who volunteered to help with the much-needed shortage of Toys for Tots this year," stated Public Safety Director Dino Villani. "We hope to do it again next year."

###

Story Ideas:

- Post-story on all Toys for Tots collections
- Highlight a family – 10 of the 12 bikes collected in Destin went to 1 family!
- Highlight bike safety/helmets.
- Generosity in spite of economy.