



Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 93 and the Rotary Club of Orlando South take needy kids Christmas Shopping

24th annual Shop With a Cop '09 brings holiday cheer to about 700 area children



For the past 24 years the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 93 has involved itself in an annual tradition that truly embodies the spirit of the holiday season. The lodge quietly raises money with a charity golf event, enlists members of the community and other volunteers, and on an early Sunday morning a week or two from Christmas, conducts Shop With a Cop.

This year's edition of Shop With a Cop enabled nearly 700 needy children to enjoy the things that most kids take for granted. Youngsters selected to participate in the event are given a budget of \$100, teamed up with an Orange County Deputy or other volunteer, and taken on a personal shopping spree. The Target Superstore on West Colonial Drive hosted Shop With a Cop '09. The line of excited children waiting outside the store was long when the store opened its doors for the special event at 5:30 on the morning of December 13.

While most of the youngsters do what you would expect kids to do when they are given 100 bucks and turned loose in a store's toy department... that is stock up on the latest in Hot Wheels, maybe a new bike, or that special Barbie doll ... the spirit of Christmas comes alive when you see the kids, who don't have a whole lot to call their own, spend their \$100 allotment on gifts for their siblings or mothers and fathers.



We are especially proud of the men and women who came together at that early morning hour to make this most worthy event possible. And I think we can safely speak for the 700 or so youngsters who participated in Shop With a Cop '09 that their efforts were most appreciated.