

The Butte County Sheriff's Office and the Belle Fourche Police Department would like to thank our community for all the support offered for our Cops & Kids Program this year.

This is somewhat of a difficult or rather humbling "Thank You" to write. Because it is hard to put into words all of the emotions the kids, the families, and the Officers go through.

With the communities help, Officers can shed their radios and handcuffs too help people in need for Christmas. With help from our schools and they help us select kids normally from the 5th grade that they know could use some help.



On the shopping day, Officers pick the kids up at their homes in patrol vehicles. Prior to going shopping, the kids get to try out all the lights and sirens in our patrol vehicles and interact with Officers!

Once inside, the kids shop for everyone in their home. It hits us in our hearts each year when we have to tell the child that is shopping that they have to buy something for themselves. Year after year, these kids want to make sure their brothers and sisters are taken care of first and that is what they are most concerned about, GIVING!

We also find that these kids buy things that are needed, not wanted. Snow pants, shoes, socks, caps, and coats are the order for the day. Yes, they may get a toy or something fun for the family, but usually that is the last

item picked out.

Once shopping is done, they ride with the Officers, this year it was to the Community Hall for gift wrapping.

This is where the fun starts, Officers wrap or attempt to wrap and make each package look 100%. Thankfully some of our wives are there to help! During the wrapping, the kids are able to pick out a new home-made quilt! Officers and kids had a pizza party together! Officers loaded up the wrapped gifts and got the kids and their gift a safe ride home.

The ride home is normally where the emotions really start to flow, for both the kids and the Officers. It sets in when the kids start to think about "what just happened". This year one girl started to cry as soon as the Officer got into the driveway. A boy cried because he was so excited to bring home a "family" gift. Another girl cried when the Deputy walked her up to the house with the wrapped presents, both the mother and daughter started to cry. These are not sad tears, but tears of appreciation, pride, and joy.

Being an Officer or Deputy can be difficult at times, we see a lot of things that are not pleasant or kind. As the Sheriff and Chief of Police, we know that our Officers think back to this day when things are not going so well, and remember what we are here for, to help our community!



Sheriff Fred Lamphere
Chief Marlyn Pomrenke