



JOE LESTER
Sheriff

DATE: Thursday, January 30, 2014

SUBJ: **PRESS RELEASE by Sheriff Joe Lester**

CCSO deputies deliver coats to Noble middle school

Dozens of Curtis Inge Middle School students in Noble can stay warm this winter thanks to a partnership between the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office and the Center for Children and Families, Inc.

CCSO deputies delivered 69 jackets to the middle school last week. The sheriff's office received the jackets from CCFI.

The organization donated coats that were remaining from its Holiday Wishes program. CCFI served about 300 clients with its gift program.

"We celebrate the success of our Holiday Wishes program and recognize that it would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters," CCFI Executive Director, Katie Fitzgerald, said. "This program is a small part of a greater commitment to strengthen the relationships between children and families in our community at large. We are thrilled that the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department can help us further our mission by using our expanded resources to reach even more children in need in our community."

Sheriff Joe Lester said many parents throughout Cleveland County struggle financially and cannot afford to buy their children a simple jacket.

"It's unfortunate that kids walk out the door each day headed to school without a coat especially when it's extremely cold outside," Lester said. "I think it's great that CCFI gave us these jacket and my deputies made sure these coats went to children who needed them."

Becky McClafin, Curtis Ingle Middle School assistant principal, said she was floored by the number of jackets that deputies dropped off at the school.

"The coats they brought were invaluable," McClafin said. "It almost brought tears to my eyes."

McClafin said teachers and principals see children everyday walk through the halls who either don't have a jacket or wear light-weighted coats. Counselors determined which students received coats based on their needs.

Any questions regarding this press release and/or information can be addressed to Meghan McCormick, Cleveland County Sheriff's Office, community liaison/public information officer. McCormick can be reached at (405) 701-8847.