

Wilson County Christmas for All tops 2,000 children served again

November 29, 2023

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Main Street Media



Watertown High School teacher Mary Hall shops for a Five Nights at Freddy's toy at the Wilson County Christmas for All headquarters. XAVIER SMITH

Wilson County Christmas for All has topped 2,100 children served this holiday season, and the number is expected to rise before the Dec. 16 gift pickup deadline.

The program is for children ages 13 or younger that reside in eastern Wilson County – mainly Lebanon and Watertown. The annual program typically provides about 2,000 to 2,400 children with toys for Christmas.

Children create a wish list through the applications, while “shoppers” — Christmas for All volunteers — find and distribute the gifts.

Wilson County Christmas for All operations manager Suzi McCoy said the program has served nearly 1,000 families and 2,100 children with 825 bags already picked up for the holiday season.

Wilson County Christmas for All board chairman Rick Smith said the program relies on community support, which includes financial and manpower support from several civic organizations, businesses and clubs, as well as individual volunteers.

Smith noted the organization receives an annual anonymous donation of \$5,000, which is used to buy bikes which are built by volunteers from REI.

“It’s just one example of how all kinds of people and groups work to put this thing together, and it’s all for the children,” Smith said.



Lebanon Fire Division Chief Brian Fountain delivers gifts as Christmas for All volunteer Rusty Clemmons checks in the recipient.

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