



# NEWS Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Annual Operation BLUE SANTA Seeking Donations**

The Rockport Police Department, in conjunction with other area law enforcement and public safety agencies, will be gathering at the Rockport Walmart store for the annual Operation BLUE SANTA event. Operation BLUE SANTA allows for economically disadvantaged children from the Rockport area to come and “shop with a Cop” and purchase holiday gifts for themselves, family members and special people in their lives.

The program came to Rockport in 2007 and has become a highlight for local law enforcement officers. “Many of these kids may not have much of a Christmas, Blue Santa gives us a chance to brighten up the holidays for them,” said Commander Larry Sinclair.

Participants are chosen by Aransas County ISD counselors and there are about 150 children each year. “It can be quite an emotional day as there are some children who chose to purchase groceries for the family rather than toys for themselves,” Sinclair noted. “Then there’s the comic element of an officer trying to shepherd four kids and several overflowing baskets.”

The funds that support Operation BLUE SANTA come from various community groups and private individuals, as well as the officers themselves, who are associated with the Rockport Police Department, Aransas County Sheriff’s County, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Anyone interested in donating to Operation Blue Santa is encouraged to contact Nikki Yarnall at the Rockport Police Department at 361-790-1101 or [nyarnall@cityofrockport.com](mailto:nyarnall@cityofrockport.com). Donations can also be made care of BLUE SANTA at the Rockport Branch of Prosperity Bank.