



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Abigail's Arms Media Contact:
Ginger Johnson | Executive Director
(940) 665 – CURE (2873), gjohnson@abigailsarms.org

Gainesville Police Association Media Contact:
Thomas Hamilton | President
thamilton@gvps.org

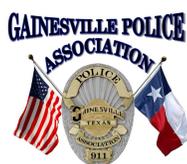
City & Gainesville Police Department Media Contact:
Paulina Schutt-Swiatkowski | Gainesville Communication & Outreach Director
(940) 668-5748, pswiatkowski@cogtx.org

December 9, 2025

Aisles Full of Smiles: Collaboration with Local Law Enforcement Brings Holiday Joy to Cooke County Youth

Gainesville, Texas — Flashing light bars and wailing sirens pierced the dense fog Saturday morning as eleven patrol vehicles caravanned down N Grand Ave toward Walmart. The procession carried officers, advocates, and local youth participating in the annual Shop with a Cop event. It was a spirited start to the annual Shop with a Cop event on December 6, 2025, organized by Abigail's Arms, funded by the Gainesville Police Association, and hosted at the Gainesville Walmart.

For decades, Abigail's Arms has led the Shop with a Cop tradition, connecting local children with uniformed officers for a memorable holiday shopping experience. The long-standing program gives participating youth the chance to choose gifts for themselves and their families while building positive relationships with the officers who serve their community. Officers volunteered their time to accompany each child as they selected items, offering encouragement, conversation, and holiday cheer.





Agencies represented at the 2025 event included:

1. Gainesville Police Department
2. Cooke County Sheriff's Office
3. Lindsay Police Department
4. Gainesville ISD Police Department
5. Texas Department of Public Safety

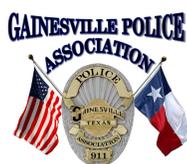
“Shop with a Cop is one of the most meaningful events of the year,” said Thomas Hamilton, President of the Gainesville Police Association and Officer with the Gainesville Police Department. “It gives our officers the chance to connect with kids in a joyful setting while helping them have a memorable holiday.”

“This program is about building trust and connection,” said Ginger Johnson, Director of Abigail's Arms. “When young people have the chance to share a positive, personal experience with the officers who protect our community, it helps strengthen relationships that last far beyond the holiday season.”

“We couldn't do this program without the collaboration within our community,” said Jennifer Burrows, Victim Outreach & Community Education Manager for Abigail's Arms. “Shop with a Cop demonstrates what happens when people come together with a shared commitment to lift up families. The generosity and work behind this event with our law enforcement, business, and volunteer partners remind us that safety and compassion are community-wide efforts.”

Abigail's Arms once again handled child selection and event coordination, continuing its legacy of supporting local families. Chick-fil-A in Gainesville generously provided breakfast for the kids, advocates, and officers, served at Gainesville Intermediate. Afterward, Walmart hosted the shopping event, providing a warm, welcoming space and refreshments.

The Gainesville Police Association expressed pride in sustaining the program after learning years ago that it risked cancellation due to loss of a previous sponsor. GPA members, who voted to take on the annual funding commitment, recognizing the profound impact the program has on participating children and the broader community. The funds the GPA uses for this and other community efforts is raised by member officers through events like the annual Chief Steven K Fleming Memorial Golf Tournament and, more significantly, by donation a small portion of each paycheck to the fund.





The collaboration behind Shop with a Cop highlights the shared mission among nonprofits, law enforcement, and community supporters to provide encouragement and positive experiences for our local children. Each year, the program reinforces the values of service and compassion through financial support, volunteerism, and longstanding partnerships within our local community.

###

About Abigail's Arms

Abigail's Arms is a nonprofit organization providing comprehensive support and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and violent crimes throughout Cooke County. For 42 years, the agency has offered crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, prevention programs, and community partnerships that promote safety, healing, and long-term stability. Abigail's Arms remains committed to empowering individuals and strengthening families through compassionate, trauma-informed services. More information is available at AbigailsArms.org.

About the Gainesville Police Association

The Gainesville Police Association (GPA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the officers of the Gainesville Police Department and strengthening connections between law enforcement and the community they serve. Through charitable programs, community outreach, and officer support initiatives, GPA works to enhance public safety, encourage positive engagement, and invest in the well-being of Gainesville's residents. Learn more at the GPA Facebook page: facebook.com/GPOA911

