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For more information, contact
Bill Johnson, Public Information Officer
678-852-1256

Walmart Donation Aids Gwinnett County's radKIDS

PEACHTREE CORNERS, Ga. -- When the Walmart Neighborhood Market opened on Winters Chapel Road earlier this month, the company donated thousands of dollars to local non-profits including the Gwinnett County Police Department which used the money to help fund its radKIDS program.

radKIDS is a 10-hour empowerment program for children ages 5 through 12. It is taught through mixed lessons and physical activity. The curriculum includes home, school and vehicle safety, out-and-about safety, realistic defense against abduction, good, bad and uncomfortable touch and self- realization of personal power.

Officer Eric Rooks coordinated and implemented radKIDS as well as the Child Safety Seats Checkpoints program and as a result was nominated for the Medal of Merit for the 2013 Valor Awards presented by Mobile Communications and Motorola Solutions.

Rooks said the Walmart donation will be used to buy equipment and certificates for participants.

"Donations such as this really help us stretch the funding out and to reach as many kids as possible," he said. "Right now the program is free and our goal it to keep it that way. We don't ever want to have to charge anything for it."

At the Walmart grand opening, Gwinnett County Commissioner Linnette Howard said Peachtree Corners City Councilman Phil Saad was instrumental in helping to bring Walmart to the Winters Chapel Road area.

"Two years ago, Phil Saad organized getting the information about this great new store and had this great community attend a town hall meeting," she said. "He's an inspirational guy who believes in this community. Walmart came to that meeting, gave their presentation and everybody got behind Phil."