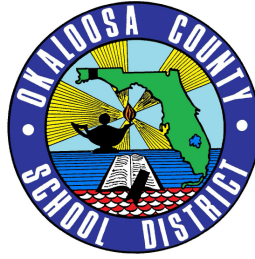


SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
October 17, 2025

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Okaloosa County School District and Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Partner for Angel Tree Program to Support Students in Need This Christmas

In the true spirit of the season, Superintendent Marcus Chambers and Sheriff Eric Aden are excited to announce a collaboration between the Okaloosa County School District and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office for this year's Angel Tree Program, which aims to bring joy and holiday cheer to students throughout the county. This joint initiative is designed to ensure that students in need, many of whom may not otherwise experience the magic of Christmas, receive gifts, essential items, and a reminder that their community cares for them. At the start of the school year, school staff and SROs identified students and created wish lists for community members to donate funds or sponsor students directly from the program.

Superintendent Marcus Chambers said, "This partnership is about more than just presents; it's about showing our children that they are seen, valued, and cared for. Every year, I am deeply moved by the generosity of our community, staff, and volunteers who come together to bring joy to children who need it most. Knowing that we can make a holiday brighter for even one child is truly inspiring. Through this partnership, we have the opportunity to touch even more families and create memories these students will treasure forever."

Sheriff Eric Aden echoed that sentiment: "The program has been a cherished way to restore hope, dignity, and bring joy to children in our community. We're honored to work with the school district to make Christmas special for children who deserve every bit of joy this season. Together, we can make this holiday season brighter, one child at a time."

Community members interested in sponsoring a child or making a monetary donation to support the Angel Tree initiative can visit <https://ocsostarcharity.com/angel-tree>. For more details about the Angel Tree program, please get in touch with Catherine Card at catherine.card@okaloosaschools.com or Katie Tingle at ktingle@sheriff-okaloosa.org.



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