



Operation Elf at the Alexandria Sheriff's Office

Each holiday season, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office proudly hosts **Operation Elf**, a community-based initiative that brings joy and compassion to families impacted by incarceration.

Through this program, we collect new toys, books, games, and gift cards to provide to children whose parents are incarcerated at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center. For many of these families, the holidays can be a difficult time. Operation Elf helps ease that hardship by ensuring children still feel remembered, supported, and celebrated during the holiday season.

How It Works

- **Community Support:** Donations are collected from caring residents, businesses, and organizations across Alexandria. Today, Operation Elf has become so well known that donations arrive not only from residents of Alexandria, but also from caring individuals, businesses, and organizations across Virginia and even from other states. This generosity demonstrates the shared belief that every child deserves to feel remembered and celebrated during the holiday season.
- **Holiday Distribution:** Sheriff's Office staff prepare and distribute gifts directly to the children of incarcerated parents. Those who live locally or within 35 miles of the Sheriff's Office, and are unable to pick the gifts up, Sheriff's Office staff will deliver.
- **Family Connection:** Each gift is given in the parent's name, allowing children to feel their parents' presence during the holidays even though they are apart.

Why It Matters

Operation Elf is more than just a toy drive. It is about building hope, strengthening family connections, and reminding children that their community cares about them. These small acts of kindness make a lasting difference, helping children experience joy while reinforcing positive community bonds.

How You Can Help

Community members can support Operation Elf by donating new, unwrapped toys or gift cards, or by making a financial contribution. Every donation—large or small—directly benefits local children and helps us spread holiday cheer where it's needed most.

