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NEWS ARTICLE: Access North Georgia on October 8, 2011

Secret Santa Car Show fills Hayes' lot

OAKWOOD - The second annual Secret Santa Car Show was a pleasant mixture of live bands, the smell of hamburgers grilling, the laughter and chatter of families, and the occasional sound of a high performance restoration starting its engine.

Jointly sponsored by the City of Oakwood, the 985 Collision Center, and Hayes Chrysler there was an abundance of family-friendly activities as well as enough restored vintage automobiles to make any gear-head grin widely.

"All of the money that we raise today will go for children in Oakwood who otherwise would not have a very bright Christmas," explained Hayes spokeswoman Sheri Millwood.

"We have at least four or five times the amount of spectators," Millwood added making comparisons to last year's inaugural event.

Oakwood Police Chief Randall Moon was manning the grill, flipping burgers as fast as humanly possible. Jokingly, Moon referred to a simultaneous event occurring at the Olympic Rowing Venue on Lake Lanier hosted by Governor Nathan Deal, "Grilling with the Governor might be good for some, but here we got Grilling with the Chief!"

"We're trying to adopt ten families (for Secret Santa)," Tim Hayes said from the shade of the canopy affronting Hayes Chrysler, the site of today's event.

Hayes announced that Bandit, the Oakwood Police Department's specially trained German Shepherd, was about to give a demonstration of his skills.

Bandit's ability to take down a target was very impressive.

Kylee Osteen, 7, who attends the World Language Academy, watched Bandit's skills with her family and said her family had a pet dog, but she was not like Bandit.

"That dog helps them to get the robbers," Kylee said.

"What we're about down here is fun, food, and fellowship," repeated Sheri Millwood. Several hundred visitors strolling the grounds probably couldn't agree more.