## Junior Gill Summers County's "Santa Claus"

Beginning in 2008, Junior Gill, owner of Jr Towing in Hinton, has distinguished himself as the true "Santa Claus" for many Summers County children.

For the past 13 years, he has generously volunteered his personal time and labor to provide Christmas joy for up to 150 children per year. In 2019 he raised \$6,800, in 2020 he raised \$8,800 and in 2021 almost \$10,000.

He begins his annual mission of joy the week after Thanksgiving setting up a hot dog stand at Dollar General on weekends with the help of Kelli Yancey and Laurie Anne Hinton. He conducts his toy drive at the same time, accepting canned food, new children's clothing and new unwrapped toys as well as monetary donations. With the proceeds from hot dog sales and donations, Junior, with the help of Penny Yancey and Bubby Wills shop for more toys for the children. He has maintained impeccable records of all proceeds and donations for each year. With the exception of the cost of a Ryder Truck rental to deliver the toys, all of the money donated is used to purchase toys and some clothing.

Everything gets wrapped and delivered Christmas Eve and morning. Junior has a deal with Shoe Carnival where parents can return shoes he purchases and exchange them for one size bigger or one size smaller, but no returns. He has an account set up at Summit Bank under "Jr Gills Toy Fund" in Hinton. People can donate year round to that account.

Junior really enjoys what he does for the kids of Summers County. He recently shared the following story "If I am behind a school bus and see a kid get off with something I got them for Christmas it warms my heart!"

## Junior Gill, We Salute You!

"To exit, hit the "X" on your browser's tab for this page" Page 1 of 2



"To exit, hit the "X" on your browser's tab for this page" Page 2 of 2