Although Tim Dukes works to protect Kilgore citizens and children everyday as a detective for the Kilgore Police Department, it’s his after-work hobby that may have the biggest effect on a child’s life. In his spare time, Detective Dukes transforms broken, rusted, rejected bicycles into like-new treasures and donates them to child-serving non-profit organizations. He calls it Bike Time Ministries. Bicycles of all sizes, colors, shapes, and purposes get a second chance to bring joy and excitement to children from toddlers to teens through Detective Dukes’ skilled craftsmanship and attention to detail.

“I don’t do this for recognition,” Detective Dukes says modestly. “As a kid, we didn’t have a lot of money so I learned at an early age how to rebuild bikes with used parts, and it’s a hobby that I continue to enjoy and want to share.”

Dukes gets donations of unwanted bikes and parts from various sources, but has high standards when it comes to the final product he donates to others.

“Sometimes people will give me an old worn-out bike and think that I’ll just replace the seat or handle bars and give it away,” he explains, “But if it doesn’t look good or isn’t safe, I’m not giving it to a child.”

Over the last several years, Detective Dukes has given away, on average, about 12-20 bikes per year.  This year, he refinished and donated more than 80 bikes to various non-profit organizations in both Gregg and Rusk counties. Here he is pictured with just a few of the many bicycles he donated to The Martin House Children’s Advocacy Center on December 16th

