



Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



Agency of the Month

Ashland Police Department

December 2020

The Ashland Police Department has many community engagement programs geared toward community policing. Programs such as Coffee with a Cop, Cones with a Cop and the annual Fishing Derby are all well received. The most successful program is Shop with a Cop.

Shop with a Cop . . .

For more than 15 years, the Ashland Police Division has sponsored a "Shop with a Cop" event to provide Christmas presents for children throughout the County. What began as Christmas gifts being provided for one homeless boy, has expanded into a community wide effort supported by fundraising events and donations from the community. Last year, over 270 children participated in the event and were able to shop with officers, deputies, troopers, rangers, firefighters and other first responders.



The program has been incorporated into several other community events as well. There have been Police vs Fire Dodgeball Games and an Annual Silent Auction sponsored by O'Bryan's Restaurant. Ten years ago, the Ashland Downtown Dream Cruise Car Show selected the "Shop with a Cop" program to sponsor. The car show has raised \$122,000 in support of the program. This added funding has enabled them to have each child "pay it forward" by selecting another item to purchase and donate to the Ashland Fire Division's "Red Helmet Campaign."





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In 2015, Det. Kim Mager, Program Coordinator, awarded the Attorney General's "Distinguished Law Enforcement Community Service Award". What began as a kind gesture to a child, has become a community-wide effort to engage the children and demonstrate that law enforcement officers are here to help.

