



# Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



## Agency of the Month

### Perkins Township Police Department

February 2022

#### ***Easter Egg Hunt***

Each year, officers fill Easter eggs with candy and goodies, as local businesses sponsor the event. Families are invited to Perkins High School for an Easter Egg hunt. Four different hunts are scheduled based on age. Participants are asked to bring a canned good for a donation to Salvation Army, which is also located in Perkins Township. The police department purchased an Easter bunny costume for the event as well.



#### ***Easter Baskets***

Each year officers buy eggs, candy, stuffed animals and toys to fill Easter Baskets. On Easter day, the baskets are delivered to the children living at Crossroads Homeless Shelter.





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## ***School Programs***

The Perkins Twp Police Department works very closely with the four schools in the jurisdiction. One officer is assigned to the schools on a permanent basis, with a second officer to be assigned soon. Programs include DARE, safety town, and the LEGO club.



## ***Stuff the Bus***

In partnership with the Vacationland Federal Credit Union and the Sandusky Mall, officers collect school supplies during the beginning of August and volunteer their time to help fill backpacks with collected school supplies. The backpacks are then given to under privileged children in the community.



## ***Santa Visits the School***

This year, the department is using funds donated by local businesses to purchase a new Santa costume. Santa visits kids during their lunch break at school and officers help Santa hand out candy canes.







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## Shop with a Hero

Perkins Schools counselors give Perkins Twp police officers a list of children in the community who are in need, officers are then paired with a child. Meijer donates a \$100 gift card to each child, Walmart and Sam's Club also donate money and toys to the department to be used to buy gifts for families in need.

### Thank you from a Mother:

*"My son Trevor received a letter in school today that asked if we would be interested in letting him participate in the shop with a hero experience. I believe that my son would love to do this!! As like many other little ones his age he loves any kind of first responder (especially firefighters) and i feel like this will totally make his whole year. Thank you so much for this opportunity. You have no idea how much this honestly means to me as a mom to know that my son is going to never forget this Christmas thanks to you guys. We didnt sign up for any Christmas help at all this year and to get this letter today made me cry. You just never know how much impact one good thing can have on a persons life. I dont know how to say thank you enough for this. Thank you."*



## No Shave / Nice Nails November

No-Shave / nice nails November is a month-long campaign to raise awareness and funding for cancer prevention, research and education. During this month, male officers are permitted to grow a beard and female officers are permitted to paint their nails. Participating officers are required to pay a fee which is later donated. In 2020 officers raised over \$600 which was donated to "Cancer Services". In 2021 officers raised over \$700 which is to be donated to a community member who is battling cancer. Officers also wear pink badges in the month of October to support breast cancer prevention, research, and education.





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## ***Trunk or Treat***

Local businesses are encouraged to participate in setting up their trunks and handing out candy. "Vendor" forms are submitted in advance so spots can be created for each participating business. Candy donations are also accepted from citizens for officers to hand out. Other area law enforcement agencies as well as fire departments are encouraged to participate. This annual event has grown so large that it was moved to the Erie County Fair grounds, which now includes over 30 vendors.



## ***Toy and Food Drives***

Each year Sgt. Martin Curran organizes a food drive prior to Thanksgiving and a toy drive prior to Christmas. Officers stand in the entrance of Walmart with carts to collect donations from shoppers. Local car dealerships donate the use of vans to transport donations, which are given to Erie County Children's Services and the Heartbeat Pregnancy Center of Sandusky. Donations in 2021 included 17 turkeys, \$331 in cash, and numerous vans full of food and toys.







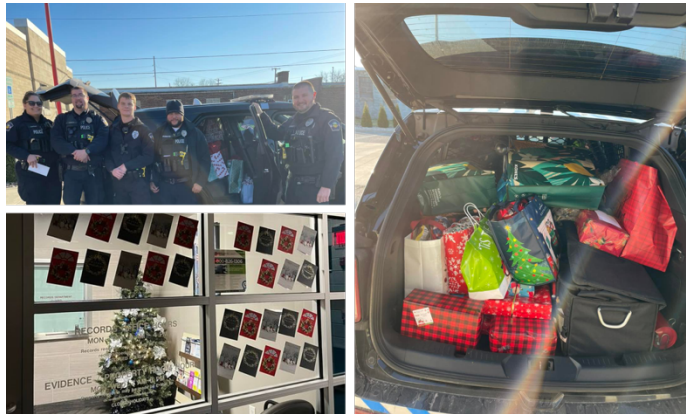
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## ***Christmas Gifts to Seniors***

Sgt. Martin Curran contacted a local nursing home and recruited staff to help seniors with no family to receive Christmas gifts. Nursing home staff collected a list of 34 residents and their wish lists. Cards containing each resident's list were hung in the lobby. A post was made on Facebook advising community members of the program. Within 24 hours, all cards were taken. Once gifts were returned, officers delivered them to nursing home residents.



## ***Motor Madness Car & Bike Show***

The Perkins Township Motor Madness Car and Bike Show is organized by several members of the police department and Perkins Township administration. Donations come from sponsors, raffle prizes, a petting zoo brought by Officer Betsy Thayer, a dunk tank, and selling food items. Perkins Police K9s are present for a K9 demonstration with Officers Joe Bauman and Officer Betsy Thayer. Awards for top three car/truck, top three motorcycle and people's choice awards were handed out. Proceeds from the event go to various local children's charities.

