

We were greeted by a group of well wishers at the front door. The people cheered as the kids and officers made their way inside. The little girl I was with had a list and as I looked at her list, I realized she did not have anything for herself on the list. She told me it was important she pick things for her family members and friends first. In the past I have heard stories of kids trying to buy cat food because their families can't afford to pay for it. I have heard of officers asking kids if they decorated their tree only to find out they don't have one. These same officers have dug into their own pockets to purchase many things. We share smiles and laughs and even a few tears with these kids and love every minute of it. I can only speak for myself, but I personally treasured this experience and I am eternally grateful to the people who help make it happen!"

—a Meridian Township Police Officer, 2011



# Schedule

December 7, 2013

- 8 a.m. Officers arrive**
- 8:30 a.m. Children arrive at Plymouth Congregational Church at 2001 East Grand River Avenue (across from the Red Cross Center) to begin their adventure. Donuts and juice will be provided.**
- 9 a.m. Children and officers depart for Walmart in patrol cars**
- 9:15 a.m. Pictures taken with Santa and shopping begins**
- 10 a.m. Lunch at Subway while gifts are wrapped**
- 10:30 a.m. Parents pick up children at Walmart**

## **Shop with a Cop** of Ingham County

a division of Lansing Police Athletic League

Contact: Ms. Heidi Williams

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brochure design courtesy of Mind Garden Creative

# Shop with a Cop

December 7, 2013



sponsored by Shop with a Cop of Ingham County  
a division of Lansing Police Athletic League

## When and where

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 7, 2013. Officers report at 8 a.m. and the children gather at 8:30 a.m. at Plymouth Congregational Church on East Grand River Avenue in Lansing (across from the Red Cross Center) to begin their adventure. It's a heartwarming experience for all.

## What we do for children

Dedicated officers from almost every police agency in Ingham County donate time on a Saturday in December to escort the children in a police cruiser (lights and sirens running, of course) to Walmart for a shopping adventure. To capture the event for parents, photos are taken of the officer, child and Santa. Lunch is provided through the generosity of local vendors such as Walmart and Pepsi.



## Who is eligible

This year we are accepting 100 children living in Ingham County who are between the ages of 5–12 years old. Applicants are children not supported by other charitable agencies during the holiday season.

## How you can help

Your tax-deductible donation (under 501(c)(3), the Lansing Police Athletic League, Inc.) supports the shopping adventure for these less affluent children. Donations are accepted until **December 1, 2013**. Children typically purchase essential needs items for themselves and their family. We also encourage them to pick out something special for themselves. Please complete and return the attached form with your donation and accept our heartfelt thanks for making it possible to Shop with a Cop.

## Volunteers

Volunteers (both active and retired) from law enforcement agencies throughout Ingham County are needed so we can provide a one-on-one experience for the children. Agencies are asked to provide uniformed officers and police vehicles for this event. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for putting a smile on the face of a child.

## Program coordinators

Our program coordinators are Phil Bailey from the CN Railroad Police; Detective Michelle Bryant from the Lansing Police Department; Detective Candace Ivey and Heidi Williams from the East Lansing Police Department; and Ms. Tootsie Panayotou. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Williams at 517.319.6836 and leave a message.

*The Shop with a Cop program of Ingham County, a division of the Lansing Police Athletic League, is an organization that raises funds to assist less affluent children in Ingham County in participating in the holiday spirit.*

*The goal of Shop with a Cop is to help bridge the gap between law enforcement and our community, as many of the children have encountered officers only in stressful situations. To accomplish this, it's important for the children and officers to spend casual time together to interact in a positive environment.*

*The Shop with a Cop program is coordinated completely by volunteers—both law enforcement and community-based residents. The program is in its ninth year and relies solely on contributions from citizens and businesses in our community.*

# SHOP WITH A COP DONATION FORM

Tax deductible confirmation will be sent to:

Business name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Donation amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(please make checks out to Shop with a Cop)*

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

