

## **SHOP WITH A COP**

On Saturday, December 12, 2020, Christmas came early for 16 Newark families and 25 children at the Newark Walmart! Each child received a \$100 Walmart gift card and was partnered with a Police Officer who volunteered their time to shop with them. Newark Walmart Manager, Pearl Miller, also donated winter jackets to each child participating in this year's event.

In October of 2020, Officer Dan Weegar requested the Newark Police Department initiate a "No Shave November & December" in which each participating Newark Police Department member agreed to donate \$200 to assist local families impacted by crime or tough times during the COVID pandemic. They were able to raise \$2450.00 through the "No Shave" program, in part due to generous donations made by Joey's Northside Grocery and Newark Public Library Director, Melissa Correia.

Officer Weegar and Sgt. Nicholas Dapolito collaborated with Newark Walmart manager Pearl Miller, HR leader Trudi MacBride, and Brant Fosdick to use the money for the "Shop with a Cop" event, asking the Newark Central School District to identify families needing assistance at this time of year.

Officer Dan Weegar said, "This event is something the agency looks forward to every year. The Newark Police Department prides itself on being able to spend time with the children at this event and continuing to develop a strong bond with the community. This year's event is especially important because of the impact the pandemic has had on the children. A simple smile and a thank you on Saturday morning from a child shows that we are all still moving in the right direction."

Mayor Taylor added, "This is a great event. Newark Police Officers are an integral part of the Village of Newark and 'Shop with a Cop' is just one more example of their compassion and their dedication to the community they serve."

If you would like to contribute to Shop with a Cop 2021, donations can be sent to Newark Police Benevolent Association "Shop with Cop 2021" at 100 East Miller Street, Newark NY 14513. One hundred percent of all the donations go directly to the children.

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