

2015 Distinguished Law Enforcement Community Service Award



Det. Kimberly MagerAshland Police Division

In 2001, when Kimberly Mager was a patrol officer with just a few years on the force, a young boy who had been removed from his parents due to neglect confided that he had received nothing for Christmas. Officers pooled their money and bought gifts for the child. The next year, Mager decided to do something to bring Christmas cheer to other needy children — and Shop With a Cop was born.

She gathered resources and contacted Job and Family Services and area schools to identify children in need. The first year, a few dozen children were able to buy items for themselves or gifts for family members. Each year, the program has expanded. It now includes all Ashland County law enforcement agencies, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and area fire departments. Last year, about 180 kids were able to take part.

Throughout the year, Det. Mager solicits donations and works to raise money. Various law enforcement agencies have become involved by organizing catfish tournaments, dodgeball games and silent auctions. Other groups have been inspired by the program and began collecting donations, as well.

With the program being so successful, in the past two years, young shoppers have been given extra money to buy a toy to donate to Toys for Tots.