

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Since 2009 the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office has set out to redefine what it means to engage with the community as a law enforcement agency. Over the years we have realigned our entire organizational structure, created or enhanced over twenty-one internal programs that systematically bring us closer to community, transformed how we hire, promote and train staff, and built partnerships in education, social work, mental health, substance addiction, and youth services that never existed before. We've worked tirelessly to balance traditional law enforcement responses with non-traditional responses and to enhance what you see when you look at the badge. Back in 2009 it was just an idea. In 2017 we can look back at our progress because of the wonderful staff that work each and every day to make that idea a reality.



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

One of the most innovative and exciting programs developed here at the WCSO since 2009 has been the Community Outreach Team. Peer Outreach work is not a new concept, however for a law enforcement agency to have a team embedded within its structure is something we are proud to highlight. Outreach Workers serve as community experts and work to build bridges between the WCSO and the communities we serve. Whether it is running the SURE moms support group with moms who have children in the juvenile justice system, overseeing the Peer-2-Peer program where OW's serve as peer mentors to help keep former inmates on the right path, or working daily to offer non-traditional law enforcement solutions, the outreach team is committed to bringing the community and sheriff's office closer together.



Community Outreach
Coordinator
Marvin Gundy



Julia Hordge



Florence Roberson



Terrence Samuel



Willie Sturdivant, Jr.



Clyde Van-De-Car

STORIES OF SUCCESS

In 2017, the Community Outreach program graduated two of our wonderful team members. Both are now employed full-time with the Home of New Vision.

Ashton Marr:



Community Engagement showed me how to have a positive impact on our community. The various outreach events helped instill a passion in me for helping, in particular, the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and recovery communities. That interest led me to help out with the Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP), of which I am Program Manager today.

Working at the Sheriff's Office also gave me a tremendous platform, through which I have been able to speak in front of many audiences (law enforcement, medical, social work, school, etc.) in an effort to help reduce the stigma of addiction and show the public why it is so important to support recovery-related resources.

Sarah McNeely:



Working at Community Outreach was one of the best experiences of my life; it allowed me to work and complete my degree from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science, build rapport with law enforcement and make relationships that I still have today, enhance my knowledge in the field of Substance Use Disorder by sending me to multiple trainings, and build partnerships within the community. One of those partnerships eventually led me to finding full time employment with Home of New Vision as their Recovery Coach Coordinator where I train and

implement our volunteer peer supports in the community to make an impact on those struggling or early in their recovery. I also currently sit on the board for the Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project, which is the program I collaborated with while working in Community Outreach. I can't possibly thank the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, Derrick Jackson, and Marvin Gundy enough for believing in me, teaching me, and helping me grow during my time as an Outreach Worker!

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Hosted or participated in **479** community events that reached over **19,320** participants
- Connected **210** kids with a deputy for our Shop-With-A-Cop holiday event
- **76** Citizen Academy graduates
- Hosted **6** Community Education Sessions where we focused on topic areas such as police use of force, managing mental health crisis, and the opiate epidemic.

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S.U.R.E. MOMS

Sisters United Resilient and Empowered (SURE) is a peer support group of mothers of youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system. The group is facilitated by our very own Outreach Worker, Florence Roberson and meets each week. In 2016 we were just beginning the program and in 2017 we saw great progress.

SURE Moms Testimonials:

Coming into the S.U.R.E group I wasn't sure what to expect, I didn't know how special the bonds would be, the trust that would develop or what a wonderful safe space the group would be. This group has had an incredible impact in the community and myself.

– I personally witnessed incredible growth from many of the moms that didn't want to share or feel comfortable sharing at first. I watched them open up and with that they became more courageous and more confident. Learning that they aren't alone in their struggles and that they are beautiful strong women that are capable of achieving GREATNESS!!

– Personally, as a mom I found many of their struggles similar to my own creating this bond allowed them to see me not just as Law Enforcement but as a mother. With this kinship grew trust between many of the women and myself where there wasn't trust before.

– Moving forward I am excited to be a part of this ground-breaking group that empowers the Mothers whom once felt powerless, find their voice and transform into strong, capable women being role models to other Mothers coming into the group and in their community.

Deputy Heather Morrison

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SHOP WITH-A-COP

Founded in Dexter Township back in 2002, the WCSO Shop With-A-Cop program was originally designed as a way of teaming up deputies and some of our areas most needy families for the holiday season. Now, after fifteen years and hundreds of happy children later, Shop With-A-Cop has become one of the highlights of our year.

Social workers and teachers from local school districts work to identify those families who could use a little extra cheer come Christmas time. Staff works to fund raise, organize, and pull off one of the largest events we manage. With over \$81,787 raised and 110 children served the 2017 version of Shop With-A-Cop West and Shop With-A-Cop East were our largest to date.

For many of the children that participate, Shop With-A-Cop brings is the chance to celebrate the holiday season that may not have happened had it not been for the generous donations of our community and the hard work of our staff. Yes, it serves to put a smile on the faces of those young kids, but if you've ever been to one of our events you can see that the deputy's smile is just as large. Having a moment off of the road or out of the jail to spend time with these young faces is invaluable for our staff and serves to leave a life-long positive impression of law enforcement in the minds of some of our most in-need families.

