



Sheriff Gary Caruana
650 W. State Street
Rockford, IL 61102
(815) 319-6300

Winnebago County Sheriff's Department



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 5, 2023

Contact: Cori Hilliard
(815) 319-6322
Hilliardc@WCSO-il.us

Shop with a Cop and Fill the Bus Events

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is pleased to partner with Target and Meijer to help make the holiday season a little brighter for area families. Together, we are hosting Shop with a Cop and our annual Fill the Bus donation drive on Saturday, December 9th, 2023. Members of the Sheriff's Office, families and friends will shop with children selected by the Harlem School District, Winnebago School District, Durand School District, Shirland School District, Pecatonica School District, Calvary Chapel School and Froberg Elementary at the Machesney Park Target store, 9833 North Alpine Road and at the Meijer store, 1770 West Lane Road in Machesney Park.

The Sheriff's Office was able to raise funds through a guest bartending event held at Fozzy's in October. AFSCME Council 473, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #50 (FOP) as well as generous community members have also donated to this event. Through the generosity of the donors, this program provides underprivileged children with the opportunity to shop for holiday gifts and necessities alongside of Deputies, Correction Officers and other public safety personnel, families and friends. This unique experience not only brings joy to these children but also nurtures trust and understanding between law enforcement and the community they protect. Shop with a Cop exemplifies the spirit of giving, camaraderie, and community engagement, making it a cherished tradition that brightens the holiday season for everyone involved.

We are also asking residents to help us "Fill the Bus" on December 9th. A Harlem school bus will be parked in front of Target in Machesney Park between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and in front of Meijer in Machesney Park between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. We are in need of new unwrapped toys, food, clothing and paper products. The items collected will go to students and their families in the Harlem School District who are in need.

-END-

Please follow us on Social Media, Facebook (Sheriff Winnebago County), Instagram (winnsheriff), Twitter (@winnsheriff) or on our website: www.winnebagosheriff.com