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Winnebago County Sheriff's Department

News Release

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 13th, 2025. Members of the Sheriff's Office, families and friends will shop with children selected by the Harlem School District at the Machesney Park Target store, 9833 North Alpine Road, Meijer Store, 1770 West Lane Road, Machesney Park and Meijer Store, 2013 McFarland Store, Rockford.

Through the generosity of Target and both Meijer stores along with donations from the community, this program is able to provide underprivileged children with the opportunity to shop for holiday gifts and necessities alongside of Deputies, Correction Officers, 911 Dispatchers 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 asking residents to help us "Fill the Bus" on Saturday, December 13th. A Harlem High School bus will be parked in front of Target in Machesney Park from 8:00a.m.-10:00a.m. and then in front of Meijer in Machesney Park from 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. We are asking residents for new unwrapped toys, food, clothing and paper products. The items collected will go to the students and their families in the Harlem School District who are in need.

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