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MARCH 2020

THE PARTNER

The Partner is the official newsletter of the Cleveland Police Foundation



CPF Police Officer of the Month, March 2020: Sergeant Teresa Gomez

Sergeant Teresa Gomez is a 23-year veteran with the Cleveland Division of Police and has been assigned to the Homicide Unit for approximately one year. In this short time, she has quickly made an impact!

Sergeant Gomez helped create a waiting room that not only benefits the Division of Police but also the community at large. This waiting room, now called the Grace Leon Room, came to fruition with support from the folks at Blue Line Services, who donated items and their time. Gomez felt it necessary that the family of victims have a warm, comforting and calming room as they deal with the loss of their loved one. She firmly believes that reciprocity with the community begins with building and establishing trust.

Sergeant Gomez continued to look for ways to enhance the services that the Homicide Unit could offer the community. When in California on vacation, she went to the Los Angeles and San Diego Police Department Homicide Units to generate ideas, using her own time and resources to go above and beyond the call of duty. To make Cleveland police more efficient and effective, the sergeant helped create a state of the art conference room, called the HUTT (Homicide Unit Think Tank). The HUTT Room benefits not just the detectives of the homicide unit but is open to the families, witnesses and attorneys. Most recently the HUTT room was made available for the Public Safety Partnership (PSP) as they conducted their interviews. Both the Grace Leon Room and HUTT Room became a reality through the persistence of Sergeant Gomez.

Sergeant Teresa Gomez does not take no for an answer! She considers it a challenge to bring about positive changes within the Cleveland Division of Police!!

Lieutenant Ali Pillow from the Homicide Unit says of Gomez, "Under Sergeant Gomez, the Homicide Unit has changed procedures that had been in place for over twenty years. These changes include case files, case tracking, assignment logs and the filing system. These changes have assisted detectives with their organization and assisted supervisors with the review of investigations. Sergeant Gomez was able to implement these changes without disrupting the unit's heavy workload."

It is because of her dedication to the Cleveland Division of Police and the community she serves that the Cleveland Police Foundation is proud to name Sergeant Teresa Gomez as its **Police Officer of the Month for March 2020**.

[More about the Police Officer of the Month Program . . .](#)



Community Partner of the Month, March 2020: Cyndi and Destiny Rice

In 2014, **Cyndi Rice** and her **granddaughter Destiny** started a charity in the name of the late Henry Adkins, a Cleveland Police officer battling ALS. They had an incredible relationship with Henry and wanted to help him financially through his struggles. The first fundraiser for Henry was organized by then eleven-year-old Destiny. It was a simple lemonade stand in front of her home.

The lemonade stand was a huge hit with the public and media! That gave way to the creation of the Hero Fund, a charity to financially assist active Cleveland Police officers with debilitating illnesses or injuries.

After several years of running the charity, the administration details became more difficult for Cyndi and Destiny. They asked the Cleveland Police Foundation to take over the responsibility of management.

The Hero Fund is now under the umbrella of the Cleveland Police Foundation. It is consistent with the CPF mission of helping others and creating trust between the police and the community served. The CPF was honored to be asked to manage this charity and are proud to be able to financially assist officers that are struggling with serious medical issues.

It is because of their dedication to help Cleveland Police Officers and enable them to serve the community that the Cleveland Police Foundation is honored to name Cyndi Rice and Destiny as its Community Partners of the Month for March 2020.

[More about the Community Partner of the Month Program . . .](#)



CPF Police Officer of the Month, February 2020: Patrol Officer Gerson Martinez

Patrol Officer Gerson Martinez is a 26-year veteran of the Cleveland Division of Police, assigned to the West Side Market for the last five years. In addition to his security duties there, he serves as Goodwill Ambassador to the tens of thousands of residents and visitors that yearly flock to this Cleveland landmark.

Officer Martinez does volunteer work at La Iglesia de Dios (The Church of God) where his father was pastor. Gerson also plays drums three days a week in the church choir.

Early in his career, Officer Martinez was chosen out of approximately 200 officers to work in the Residential Area Policing Program. RAPP, as it was known, was an effort to assign officers to specific neighborhoods to work closely with at-risk youths. More recently, Gerson volunteered to work with Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital on their Car Seat Safety program. In that role, Gerson helps to educate the public on infant car seat safety and installation.

When asked about Officer Martinez, Second District Commander Thomas Stacho stated, "Officer Gerson Martinez is humble, polite, soft-spoken, dedicated and is the very embodiment of a professional police officer."

It is because of his diligence to duty and dedication to the community he serves that the Cleveland Police Foundation is proud to name Patrol Officer Gerson Martinez as its **Police Officer of the Month for February 2020**.

[More about the Police Officer of the Month Program . . .](#)



Community Partner of the Month, February 2020: John Gogerty

This past December, a 68-year-old Vietnam veteran, **John Gogerty**, was at Public Square when he witnessed a suspect escape from a Cleveland police car. The suspect had been arrested on a warrant tied to a burglary ring when he broke the door handle and escaped from the back seat of the vehicle.

The police officers ran after the suspect and captured him, but the man resisted. Gogerty saw the officers struggling to maintain control so Gogerty jumped in to assist, though in the process he injured his right hand.

Gogerty says that despite his injury, he would again make the effort to help anyone who needed assistance. He says he knows that the police officers appreciated the support he provided.

Thanks to John, the suspect was indicted along with several others for an eight-month burglary spree! The accused will also be facing additional charges related to this attempted escape and resisting arrest incident.

The Cleveland Police Foundation wants to thank John Gogerty for these efforts and for putting himself in harm's way to back our Cleveland police officers.

It is because of his courage to protect the community and Cleveland Police Officers that the Cleveland Police Foundation is honored to name John Gogerty as its **Community Partner of the Month for February 2020**.

[More about the Community Partner of the Month Program . . .](#)

Order your 2020 "Dog and Pony Show" calendar today!

Woof woof! [We invite you to buy](#) the 2020 Dog and Pony Calendar. Featuring beautiful shots of the K-9 dogs and horses in the Cleveland Mounted Unit in our second edition calendar!



[How to Purchase](#)

"BOLO"

Be on the Lookout: Mark Your Calendar

July 21, 2020

[Kids Fish CLE for Free](#)

TBA

In the News Around Town



Returning the Favor

The Cleveland Police Foundation and Cops for Kids brought pizza to [Westside Community School of the Arts](#) to thank the students for donating canned foods during the past holiday season. It was a great help to the charities that feed city folks and families in need.

Fourth grade teacher Amy Simmons brought a fantastic treat as well. It was a giant cream-filled donut as a thank you to all police officers for everything they do for the community!!

Pizza and a giant donut!! Can't get much better than that!!



The CPD's Appetite Triumphs, But Children's Miracle Network is the Real Winner!

Held at the Steelyard IHOP, the 2020 World Team Pancake Eating Championship was won by the Cleveland Police. CPD had lost 12 years in a row to their Cleveland Fire rivals but 13 must be their lucky number!! Team CPD members Stanton, Petkac, Calhoun, Pavlik, and Fioritto took home the giant World Championship trophy, at least for the year!!

This event kicked off [National Pancake Day](#), which was Feb 25. On that day, [IHOP](#) donated proceeds from all sales to the [Children's Miracle Network](#)!!

For the competition, Cleveland Police (CPPA) and Cleveland Fire unions, along with Cleveland Cops for Kids, each donated \$250 to the Children's Miracle Network. This charity supports [University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital](#)!!

Thank you to Steelyard IHOP, [Munch Bishop](#), University Hospitals, and our participants and safety force unions for thinking of our children!!



Cleveland Foundation Skating Rink Hosts Kids and Cops

Thanks to the Cleveland Police Foundation and Cops for Kids for taking 10 children from the Emotionally Disturbed class at [Wade Park School](#) to Public Square to ice skate. Many of these kids have been through incredible trauma in their lives and struggle with PTSD.

This was the first skating experience for nearly all of the children and even the police officers! The [Cleveland Foundation Skating Rink](#) opened at 10 AM especially for this event and refused to accept any money. Awesome!

Afterward, everyone went to [Crust Pizza](#) for lunch and [Mitchell's Ice Cream](#) for dessert. What a treat! A great way for the cops and kids to join together while receiving tremendous support from the citizens encountered along the way.

It is because of the Cleveland Police Foundation that we can create these positive and memorable moments for these children!! Thank you!!



Valentine's Day at the Y

Cleveland Cops for Kids and the 1st District had lunch with the preschoolers at the West Park Y for Valentine's Day. The cops and kids made some Valentine's Day crafts, shared a happy meal, and then each kid received a Valentine's Day gift bag courtesy of Cleveland Police and the Cleveland Police Foundation.

We get mail!

#DerekOwens

Barbara Owens: "My family and I thank you for honoring and remembering Derek! ❤️❤️"

#Community

Kim Duty: "It is wonderful to see our officers out here helping our children. They bring so much joy into their lives. To see their little eyes light up, the smiles on their faces, makes me have a reason to be thankful for all I have. Thank you Cleveland Police for making it possible to do this."

Bob Shores: "We distributed many of these t-shirts at St. Paul's today, and I will be distributing t-shirts at the Metanoia shelter (Denison UCC) for weeks to come. These donations are a true blessing and are greatly appreciated! God bless Mike Duda from Sports Focus and God bless Captain Keith Sulzer!!"

#Rivalry

Yvonne Joy Gadomski: "Congrats, but the fireman r use to eating on the job... lmao...GO BLUE"

Recap photos . . .

Simply amazing amount of work - impossible to track it all! Here are photos from the many events local police officers were involved in over just a short period.





Safety and Crime Prevention Tips

The Cleveland Police Foundation in partnership with the Cleveland Division of Police and the Ohio Crime Prevention Association presents these tips so citizens can help to make our community safer.

COVID-19 Information

At this very challenging time for our country and the world we offer our best wishes to you for good health and financial security. For updates and information on COVID-19, we recommend visiting these resources as they are updated frequently and comprehensively.

[CDC COVID-19 Info](#)

CDC information on the disease, prevention, its symptoms, testing and how to care for someone who is sick.

[Local COVID Information on Cleveland.com](#)

Cleveland.com's recent feature stories include the latest from Governor Mike DeWine.

[Economic Assistance for Individuals and Businesses](#)

The State of Ohio's website includes unemployment resources, information on school meals, economic disaster loan program information and more.

[COVID-19 Checklists](#)

A plethora of resources for individuals such as cleaning alternatives, quarantines and more.

[Letter from the Cleveland Department of Public Health](#)

Recommendations from Merle Gordon, Director.

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Safety is everyone's business. Practice good safety measures. Stay alert; if you see something, say something.

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The March 2020 *Partner*

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The Cleveland Police Foundation is the official charity for the Cleveland Division of Police and the only organization authorized to solicit charitable contributions on its behalf.

In addition to providing funding for youth and community outreach programs, community policing and engagement initiatives, safety & crime prevention programs, and supporting the members of the Cleveland Division of Police to help them better perform their duties, the CPF proudly supports the following charities in accomplishing their mission.



Contributions to the CPF are tax deductible under section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code.

[Donate Here](#)

Thank you for supporting the mission of the CPF.

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