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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020

THE PARTNER

The Partner is the official newsletter of the Cleveland Police Foundation

Heroes Fund Helps Families of Fallen Officers



It is with deep sadness that we reflect on the loss of two of Cleveland's finest, Detective James Skernivitz and Patrol Officer Nicholas Sabo. However, it warms the heart to see the community rallying to support the officers' families. Fox 8 News ran this story and video segment:

If you would like to donate, [we invite you to the Heroes Fund donation page, here.](#)



CPF Police Officer of the Month, September 2020: Patrol Officer Rashawn Rahim

Patrol Officer Rashawn Rahim of the CPD Community Relations Unit had a dream growing up. Young Rashawn wanted to become a Cleveland Police Officer. So he joined and completed the Law Enforcement Explorer Program to make that dream a reality!

The Cleveland Police Law Enforcement Explorer Program is designed to introduce youth aged 14 through 20 years old to the police profession. The young participants develop the skills and knowledge necessary to pursue a career in the field of policing. After six years with the Cleveland Division of Police, PO Rahim is now in charge of the Explorer Program. Rahim anxiously awaits the end of the COVID-19 crisis so he can continue to recruit members so they too can join the ranks of the CPD.

When asked about Officer Rahim, his immediate supervisor Sergeant Tim Higgins stated, "Officer Rashawn Rahim is an outstanding officer that takes his job seriously and works well with our youth who have the ambition and drive to become police officers and he is well-deserving of this recognition."

It is because of his dedication and devotion to his profession that the Cleveland Police Foundation is proud to name Patrol Officer Rashawn Rahim its **Police Officer of the Month for September 2020**.

Editor's Note: Anyone interested in the Cleveland Police Law Enforcement Explorer Program

can reach Officer Rashawn Rahim at 216-623-5080 or email him at rrahim@city.cleveland.oh.us.

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



Community Partners of the Month, September 2020: Gideon and Josiah Trank

Two very special brothers, Gideon (age 8) and Josiah (age 6) Trank set up a snack stand at their home on Vandalia Avenue in suburban Brooklyn over the Labor Day weekend. All the proceeds were donated to the families of Cleveland Police Detective James Skernivitz and Patrol Officer Nick Sabo, recently fallen heroes-in-blue.



When asked about why he felt the need to do this, Gideon Trank stated, "When I heard about the officers dying I was very sad but after doing this I am happy again." Machelle Trank, the boys' mother said, "The two boys raised over \$6,000 and turned the money over to the grateful families this past week." She further stated, "My two boys are homeschooled but the lesson they learned from holding

this event for these families is more important than math or science.”

The Cleveland Police Foundation invited the Trank family to our recent “Feed Our Officers Event” at the Second District. Gideon and Josiah got to visit with some of our officers and the two boys got to sit in one of the zone cars.

It is because of their compassion and caring for our officers that the Cleveland Police Foundation is honored to name Gideon and Josiah Trank as its **Community Partners of the Month for September 2020**.

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

Welcoming Rick DeChant, Our New Executive Director

Following a comprehensive search, the Governance Committee of the CPF recommended Rick DeChant as Executive Director with Unanimous Consent. DeChant follows in the footsteps of Retired Cleveland Police Sergeant Chas Lane, the CPF’s original director.



A veteran of the Coast Guard Reseeve, Rick helped raise \$3.5 million to build the two [Greater Cleveland Fisher Houses](#). He also served as Executive Director of the Tri-C Veterans Initiative, was a 2017 inductee of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, and is active in numerous community organizations.



Rick DeChant receiving the American Nationalities Movement of Ohio Freedom Award 2019

DeChant plans to use his experience in donor development, public and military affairs, and strategic planning to move the Cleveland Police Foundation forward. My “unwavering commitment to the mission of the CPF as well as an ability to engage and get done the vital work... is especially critical in this time of unprecedented calls for social reform and the re-invention of police departments.”

Welcome Executive Director DeChant... we look forward to this next chapter of the Cleveland Police Foundation!

"BOLO"

Be on the Lookout: Mark Your Calendar

September 30, 2020

Due date for submitting responses to 2020 Census!

October 24, 2020

20th Annual Baby Shower Benefit at Providence House (Drop-Off Event)

In the News Around Town



Congratulations to Bob James, Recipient of Memorial Scholarship of Fallen Officer Fahey

Bob James received this year's \$2,500 David Fahey Memorial Scholarship. It was presented to him by David's mother, Jackie Ketterer, at this year's [Officer David J. Fahey Jr. Memorial Golf Outing](#).

The golfing event was held on Saturday, August 1 at the Legacy Golf Course at Sweetbriar Golf Course in Avon Lake. The proceeds from the golf outing were donated to recently-injured SWAT officer Jon Rodriguez.

In order to receive the Fahey scholarship a student must fit the following criteria: have a relative who is or was a law enforcement officer; participate in extracurricular activities; have excellent academic and attendance records; and be a [Cleveland Police Athletic League](#) volunteer. Congratulations, Bob!



Public Service Announcement

As the novel coronavirus continues, guiding those in need to [local food banks](#) can be a great assist. Healthcare and basic needs can be fulfilled with the help of [local charities](#).

Migrant workers can access [legal services](#) to maneuver through interactions with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), obtain work visas, and affirm their employment rights. Any struggling group can benefit from these services when faced with issues of eviction or financial difficulties.

As community leaders and supporters, our most vulnerable citizens welcome the helping hand we can offer them. The contributions of migrant workers affect our food supply and economy and *everyone's* role has an impact on our local society. Please reach out to those around you who need help. Thank you!

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

As the focus of National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is on connecting those contemplating suicide to treatment services and reaching out to the affected families and friends, we reflect on the life of Cleveland Police Officer Nick Sabo.

Sadly, on September 4th, Patrol Officer Nicholas Sabo #1573, took his own life. Officer Sabo was assigned to the Fourth District, hired by the Cleveland Division of

Police on April 15, 2013, after serving as a Perry County Sheriff's Deputy. The officer is survived by his wife and children.



According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness ([NAMI](#)), 75% of suicide deaths are male. Because policing has the highest rate of suicide of any profession, the "Six" program was developed by retired Detective Cliff Kime and the late Captain Jim Purcell. Reaching out to Cleveland officers in distress, support is offered by a number of mostly retired police officers to address issues of addiction, injuries, and shootings.

"Six" is an anonymous way for officers to seek help, guidance, and direction from peers. Please reach out by connecting with Detective Cliff Kime [here](#).

We get mail!

Detective James Skernivitz

My immediate response to his picture in the paper brought tears of sorrow for a family I never knew nor even met. It saddens me greatly that such a young man with so much to live for was taken from our grasp by a shot fired from a group of individuals who stand for nothing but killing for drugs.

The picture also reveals one more thing; the character and sense of humor his parents did so well to instill.

For many reasons, James heeded the call and took up the badge to defend those very freedoms we all enjoy but fail every day to appreciate. It sickens me to recognize how disconnected the people in Cleveland are from those defending our freedom citywide. Many Cleveland residents seem to treat police service in as though it is some television reality show, all the while mischaracterizing it as someone's desire for brutality.

Skern was born and raised in Slavic Village making him truly one of our own. His name means helper, adaptable, and strengthful.

How will this change the future of his family? Only time will tell. He protected us for a very long time.

The patron saint of police officers is Saint Michael the Archangel, which happens to be my confirmation name as well. We are defenders by helping those who cannot help themselves.

Cleveland police Det. James Skernivitz, I stand at attention and salute you, sir. Thank you, I love you and will always appreciate what you did for me and the citizens of Cleveland.

- Joe Bialek, Cleveland



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 residents can help to make our community safer.

GENERAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- 1) Make a list of important local numbers, such as the non-emergency numbers for the police department, fire department, and FBI field office. Keep those numbers by the phone and make copies for yourself and your family to keep in your wallets.
- 2) Write down phone numbers and contact information for your family. Keep one copy by the phone and provide others to family and friends.
- 3) Make a neighborhood directory and plan. Include emergency contact information and plans for children and seniors who may be home alone during emergency situations.

4) Make your house easy to find. Make sure your street or apartment address number is large and well lighted so that emergency personnel can find your home quickly.

5) Organize an emergency preparedness kit. Check batteries, change the stored water, and rotate the food supplies every six months. Your kit should contain the following supplies:

- A three to five day supply of water (one gallon per person per day)
- Food that will not spoil and requires no cooking.
- A first-aid kit and needed medicines (consult your physician or pharmacist about storing medications).
- Emergency tools like a battery-powered radio, cell phones, flashlights, and extra batteries.
- Personal items like toilet paper and plastic garbage bags.
- A portable emergency generator if possible.

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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 September/October 2020 *Partner*

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Forward

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.

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Thank you for supporting the mission of the CPF.

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