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VISION '21 CAMPAIGN



Cleveland Police Foundation Announces \$500,000 Vision '21 Fundraising Campaign to Bring Communities Closer to Police

Now is time to invest in our communities, not defund police

The Cleveland Police Foundation Board has determined that now is the perfect time to invest in a fundraising campaign designed to bring the Cleveland Division of Police and its officers closer to the communities they serve—transforming them from warriors to

guardians, according to Rick DeChant, Foundation Executive Director. The Vision '21 campaign kicked off in June 2021.

"Now is not the time to defund. It's time to invest. The Cleveland Police Foundation has established itself as the bridge between police officers and the community, producing measurable results from our participation in the cultural transformation, ShotSpotter, summer pipeline and Heroes programs," said DeChant. "Our advancement committee and board will lead the way in terms of obtaining funding, donors and sponsorships. The Foundation will serve as the driver for the \$500,000 we wish to raise over the next two years."

According to the Foundation, there are six critically important areas requiring financial support from the Vision '21 campaign.

One: Implement "Cultural" Transformation in each of the Cleveland Police Districts across the city. With the community's help, we can build on the success of the pilot program implemented in District 4 that improved internal relationships and operations, and helps police officers to be more empathetic and culturally responsive to the communities and neighborhoods they serve.



Two: Introduce Technology designed to fight crime on the streets, save lives and track down perpetrators. ShotSpotter technology has been installed on a trial basis in a high crime area to pinpoint the location of gun shots via sensitive audio equipment enabling rapid response that is already saving lives and taking weapons out of our neighborhoods.

Three: Address the demographic and gender diversity on the force. Our Public Safety Career Pipeline Program engages high school students in underserved areas to equip them with the skills necessary for successful careers in public safety. The program closes the gap between graduation and the eligibility age to apply for police division opportunities—thus creating a "pipeline of qualified" candidates.

Four: Expand the interaction between police officers and citizens through support of Community Policing activities such as "Fishing with Cops" that draws hundreds of children to experience Lake Erie—often for the first time.

Five: Increase the capacity for Police Charities including the Police Athletic League, Cops for Kids, Cleveland Mounted Police, Pipes & Drums and Honor Guard, and The Cleveland Police Historical Society and Museum **to better support Community Policing efforts.**

Six: Support the welfare and mental health of Cleveland Police Officers who face incredibly stressful circumstances in pursuit of their duties. Our signature Heroes Fund

provides support of families and special considerations for fallen officers and their dependents.

The Cleveland Police Foundation has developed an integrated marketing communications campaign that will include public relations, direct mail, digital marketing, collateral, speakers' bureau and grant writing initiatives.

"Now, we will be reaching out to corporations, foundations and individuals who want to invest in Cleveland's police officers and our communities to make them closer than we have ever been," DeChant concluded. "In today's world, there is less and less support for our men and women in blue. The Cleveland Police Foundation is not a part of the Cleveland Police Department. We are a completely separate organization dedicated to helping police officers with their unfunded needs, underwriting programs designed to improve the way police interact with the community, and changing how the community views our police force. It is a mission we wholeheartedly embrace."

For more information about the Vision '21 Campaign, go to www.clevelandpolicefoundation.com/vision21 or call 216.536.6776.

Become a Member



JUNE 2021

POLICE OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

SERGEANT JOE O'NEILL and PATROL OFFICER SCOTT SIEGER

The Cleveland Police Foundation is honored to recognize Sergeant Joe O'Neill and Patrol Officer Scott Sieger as the June 2021 Police Officers of the Month.

Sergeant Joe O'Neill and Patrol Officer Scott Sieger of the Cleveland Division of Police Mounted Unit recently showed a caring and compassionate side of themselves!

The officers were notified by radio dispatch about a missing pony named French Fry. The day before, French Fry was giving rides to children in Kerruish Park on Cleveland's east side. Then a loud four-wheeler zoomed through the park, spooking French Fry who ran into a wooded area and could not be found!

Sergeant O'Neill and PO Sieger, along with their horses Chex and Jim, went to the park and searched for two hours. These dedicated officers located French Fry, apparently in good health, and reunited the pony with its grateful owner!

When asked about this incident, Sergeant O'Neill stated, "We feel fortunate we were able to locate French Fry—and in good health because during our search we did come across a coyote in the area which could have attacked the small horse and the results could have been different."

It is because of their dedication to their profession and the community they serve that the Cleveland Police Foundation is proud to name Sergeant Joseph O'Neill and Patrol Officer Scott Sieger of the Cleveland Police Mounted Unit as its **Police Officers of the Month for June 2021**.

This story reflects the actions of the majority of our police. "We rarely get to witness the caring and compassionate side of our officers only because they don't get the positive media coverage all the time."

Submitted by Bob Guttu, CPF Community Partnership Coordinator

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



June 2021 Community Partner of the Month Amy Sharo

If there is such a thing as a guardian angel, **Amy Sharo** is a prime example of one!

Recently, while directing traffic at West 9th & Superior, Cleveland Police Patrol Officer Rich Strunk was the victim of a hit-and-run accident. The impact from the vehicle was so strong that Officer Strunk flew through the air and suffered a concussion, broken bones, and other serious injuries.

Luckily for Officer Strunk, Amy Sharo was in her vehicle directly behind the suspect's car. She quickly exited her own vehicle to attend to this very dazed and confused Victim in Blue. When Amy assessed the condition of the officer, she grabbed his portable radio and informed the dispatcher of what had happened. She gave the location of the accident so EMS and other help could be sent.

When asked about this incident, Amy stated, "I saw someone in need of assistance and my natural instinct was to comfort and get the help that was needed for him." A short time ago, Amy and Officer Strunk were able to meet and he called her "a true hero."

It is because of her concern and compassion for a fellow citizen in need that the Cleveland Police Foundation is proud to name Amy Sharo as its **Community Partner of the Month for June 2021**.

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

BOLO

JULY 10, 2021

Serbian Golf Outing Dinner & Music
Sleepy Hollow Golf Course

SEPT 17, 2021

Ohio Heroes Golf Outing
Remembering Det. James Skernivitz and
Officer Brandon Stalker
[Registration](#) | [Sponsorship](#)

In the News Around Town



Cleveland Police Community Relations Unit Keeps Cleveland Kids Cool

In a welcome rebound, the Cleveland Division of Police Community Relations Unit Ice Cream Truck is on the road, giving out free treats to kids of all ages in the City of Cleveland! The officers of Community Relations go around the city randomly, passing out ice cream novelties at pools, parks and other events. Seeing the children & adults smile are always priceless moments! Thank you again to Cuyahoga County Crime Stoppers for sponsoring the Cleveland Police Community Relations Unit Ice Cream Truck!

[Cleveland Cops for Kids](#)

[CLE Ice Cream Police](#)

[Things to do in Cleveland, Ohio](#)



Spruce-Up Day at Owens' Memorial Park

Tuesday, June 22 was Owens' Memorial Park spruce-up day as CPD officers, community partners, Cleveland Police Foundation board members and of course former CPD Captain Keith Sulzer spread mulch and planted flowers at the memorial site! It was a true labor of love as this dedicated group of volunteers worked into the afternoon to make sure everything was in order and sparkling clean on this cool but sunny June day.



The park is well-established now, being dedicated in November 2019. With the help of the family of Derek Owens, the Cleveland Police Foundation, and support from the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, St. Luke's Foundation, Cleveland Foundation, LAND studio and other community partners, this police-community collaboration was brought to fruition.

A big thank you goes out to all who participated, especially CPF board members Jimmy Craciun and Steve Anthony. All took time out of their busy day to help clean up this park, dedicated to Our Fallen Hero in Blue Derek Owens.

Submitted by Bob Guttu, CPF Community Partnership Coordinator



Family Fun

Cleveland Cops for Kids did it again as they were able to donate two bikes to the children of [Malachi Center](#) on the Malachi Center's Annual Family Fun Day.

The event was held in the lot of the St. Malachi Parish and Center Complex. The site is in Ohio City on West 25th Street between Washington and the Superior

Viaduct in the shadow of the Veterans' Memorial Bridge.

A special thanks go out to Ms. Lynn and Ms. Keesha for inviting officers to this awesome get-together.



We get mail!

#CPOM

RE the May '21 Community Partner of the Month, Chef Bruno DiSiena:

"Congratulations Bruno and well deserved! I can say I was there when you started. Great food and his family is amazing. Great memories when I worked in the Clark Metro neighborhood." - Dawn Livingston

"Excellent food, service, and atmosphere. And he looks out for his police officers! Bene bene!" - Guy Turner

"Congratulations Chef Bruno! Thank you for always giving back to the community. Your restaurant is one of my all time favorites, not just for the food but the people." - Kathleen McGrath



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.

Driving

We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors.

- Try to avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you park.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. Put items in the trunk.
- Be sure you have car keys in your hand when approaching your vehicle.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them on top of the car in order to open the door.

- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

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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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CPF on Facebook 

The July 2021 *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.

[Donate Here](#)

Thank you for supporting the mission of the CPF.

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