



## “Shop With A Cop” Event

# Brightens Childrens’ Holidays

The Village of Newark Police Department; Reliant Federal Credit Union and the Newark Rotary Club recently joined hands and hearts and provided monetary contributions to make to make this holiday season a little brighter for some twenty six children from 14 local families.

Their generosity allowed the children to participate in a three-hour “Shop With A Cop” event at Newark Walmart December 12th, allowing them to “purchase” some toys and other items they need and want using nearly \$2,500, about \$250 of which was donated by shoppers in the store that day when the event was happening.

In addition to what they got during the “Shop with a Cop” event, the children received a stocking from Walmart and their families received a ham from the store. And all the families will also be receiving a pre-made Christmas dinner provided by Wegmans.

The Newark Central School District identified the participating families, who for various reasons, might greatly benefit from some assistance at this time of year.





Above, from left: Sgt. Randy Rice, Officer Tom Robertson, Investigator Jay Warren, Officer Jacob Jackson, Chief Mark Thoms, Officer Ethan Derr and Sgt. Nick Dapolito.



Newark PD Sgt. Nick Dapolito coordinated the event. Members of the Newark PD that participated in the shopping event included Dapolito, Chief Mark Thoms, Investigator Jay Warren, Sgt. Randy Rice, Officers Jacob Jackson, Ethan Derr and Tom Robertson.

Dapolito said much of the money contributed by the NPD was raised during a “No Shave” event in which department members paid for the right to grow a beard in November and December. Some who didn’t grow a beard also contributed.

Chief Mark Thoms, on his last day of work December 17<sup>th</sup> before retiring, commended members of his Department that made donations noting “they brought a lot of holiday cheer” to some local children.

Dapolito agreed, noting he wants to continue the “Shop With A Cop” event next year.

“It was very rewarding and heartfelt this year,” he said. “ Families were very appreciative. It was a lot of fun walking around the store with the kids as they shopped. They had so much fun picking out what they wanted.”

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Special thanks to Inv. Jay Warren for providing photos from the event!