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2017

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# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



# LPD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

2017

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EVENTS/ MEETINGS/ PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP TEAM



# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Throughout 2017, the Lorain Police Department participated in several community-oriented policing events and programs. The Lorain Police Citizen's Police Academy, Donuts with Dads, and the Lorain Police Explorers Program are just some of the many programs Lorain Police personnel participated in during 2017. Each program shows the administration's commitment to breaking down barriers and building strong, lasting relationships with all of Lorain's community members. The following is a summary of some of these programs.

## Lorain Police Citizen's Police Academy

From September 6<sup>th</sup>, through November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Lorain Police Department held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Citizen's Police Academy. This academy placed 13 citizens through an intense ten-week training program meant to build an understanding of challenges and goals of police work through training, education, and experience. Each week, participants attended a three-hour training session specific to one aspect of policing in the City of Lorain. The curriculum included input from all of the many different bureaus of the Lorain Police Department, as well as direction from upper level administrators. Topics included use of force, emergency vehicle operations, use of technology in law enforcement, and several other key areas of police work. Attendees experienced first-hand the difficulties of the many missions carried out by the Lorain Police Department. This program served as a means of not only distributing information to the community, but also soliciting ideas and input from the attendees. By engaging in this useful exchange of information, the Lorain Police Department was able to collect information from these participants and consider it in future policy changes.

Though the program culminated in a graduation ceremony on November 20<sup>th</sup>, the graduates of the Lorain Police Citizen's Police Academy continued their involvement with the Lorain Police Department. While the 2017 Lorain Police Citizen's Academy graduates were the third graduating class since the inception of the program, they were tasked with starting and managing the Lorain Police Citizen's Academy Alumni Association (LPCAAA). This continued means of service to the department allowed for all academy graduates (approximately 45 people total), to continue to work alongside Lorain Police and help accomplish community goals as one joint entity. Continued participation in departmental / FOP programs such as "Cops and Kids", and other volunteer efforts ensured that the graduates of this program will maintain a good working relationship with the Lorain Police Department, and that the department can continue to draw feedback and input from the graduates.

## Donuts with Dad

On 10-25-17, Lorain City Schools held an event called "Donuts with Dad", during which students could invite their father / grandfather to their school and enjoy a donut breakfast in the cafeteria with their loved ones. It was brought to the attention of the Lorain Police Department that many of the students at Helen Steiner Rice Elementary School did not have a father-figure in their lives, and would be forced to either sit alone or not participate in the event at all.

Upon being made aware of this, several members of the Lorain Police Department volunteered their time to attend this event and “fill-in” so that several of the students were not forced to sit alone. Furthermore, several of the officers volunteered to sit with more than one child, resulting in approximately 20 children being able to participate in the event. The event was such a success, that some of the children left their parent to interact with the police officers who were in uniform at the event. This undoubtedly left a great impression, not only with the children, but with the adult staff / attendees who saw this great interaction take place.

### Police Explorers

The Police Explorers is a youth organization governed by the Boy Scouts of America. Youth participants are able to meet during after school hours and learn police tasks. In addition to the training opportunities, explorers are often used to augment police department personnel for specific tasks such as event security, traffic control, and other duties. Explorers, through hard work and dedication can achieve ribbons and medals, and can even become eligible for scholarship opportunities.

In October of 2017, the Lorain Police Department made a conscious effort to reinvigorate the program. A recruitment event was held at Lorain High School in November, and approximately 50 students completed the interest form. One week later, a sign-up / informational event was held at the Lorain Police Training Room inside of City Hall. 26 students attended this meeting and brought their legal guardians with them. During the event, a fingerprinting exercise was conducted, during which the students were able to work in teams to apply fingerprint power and lift prints from several items. At the end of the event, 24 students signed up for the Lorain Police Explorer Post, bringing the membership count from 6 to 30 in just one night.

Several meetings were held in 2017, and interest has continued to rise. Explorers have begun to conceptualize ways in which they may volunteer to give back to the City of Lorain as a group. Anti-bullying programs, bicycle registration programs and other major projects were conceptualized, all with start dates for early / mid 2018. Each program is sure to help the city and its residents, not only in 2018, but for years to come. In just 2 months, the program has grown considerably. It is not only an after-school program, aimed at keeping youth off of the streets, but also a means for LPD to mentor the youth of Lorain.

## LIST OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS OF 2017

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- Participated in a career show and tell of police vehicles and equipment in partnership with Elyria Police Department at Oakwood Elementary and Larkmoor Elementary Schools (9/22/17).
- Participated in Live Healthy Lorain's Rollin' on the River initiative to assist our School Resource Officer Tom Orlosky and support Lorain High School students at Black River Landing (9/30/17).
- Participated in Trunk or Treat event for community, supporting First Lutheran Church W. 5<sup>th</sup> street (10/25/17).
- Assisted Boys and Girls Club Southside Gardens with coat give away to needy families (11/2/17).
- Helped and facilitated the Fall 2017 Police Citizen Academy.
- Attended LOIRA appreciation meal at Sacred Heart Chapel where we encouraged the Association and offered advice to those in attendance (11/29/17).
- Spoke to class at Garfield Elementary and included a current criminal justice student from Lorain County Community College to talk about safety and what officers do (12/1/17).
- Sergeant Ray Colon Officers Morris and Figueroa were able to be a part of the video interview from Amherst High School Media Team, regarding Police functions and use of force in high profile cases (12/2/17).
- Reinvigorated the Lorain Police Explorer program for Lorain High School students and were able to sign up 27 new members. First meeting was on 12/6/17 where Explorers toured the station, dispatch, and jail. A second meeting on 12/20/17 was conducted.
- Attended RAW annual recognition for Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority at Golden Corral Restaurant (12/7/17).

- Attended function at Sacred Heart Chapel and spoke about legal issues as well as drinking and driving- what to do when stopped by the Police. Over 200 people in attendance and passed out candy to the children along with Officer Eladio Andujar (12/20/17).
- Coordinated with veteran Sam Felton and assisted al family that was in need during the holiday season. Provided food, gifts, and veteran assistance (12/21/17)
- Passed out 15 gifts donated from Sergeant Robert Brown and others to several needy families in the city (12/22/17).
- Coordinated with Councilman Angel Arroyo to collect donated food bags from Save-A-Lot in South Lorain. Over 100 bags donated. Bags were distributed to 78 needy families throughout the city.
- Kay Jewelers in Lorain donated 40 teddy bears to the department to hand out. These bears were donated to numerous families from Puerto Rico who had come to the city as a result of the hurricane. They were distributed to families 1/6/17 on the day Latin communities celebrate Three Kings Day.

## 2017 FALL POLICE CITIZEN ACADEMY CLASS MEMBERS



Front Row:

Corina Barranco, Lynn Wrice-Head, Bambi Dillon, Malixza Molina, Jay Nimene, Jeanine Donaldson, Greg Argenti

Second Row:

Dan Gross, Prestys Blakely, Steve Bansek, Sam Felton, Don Jacopin, Academy Director Jake Morris



### Lorain middle school students honored for buying shoes for classmate

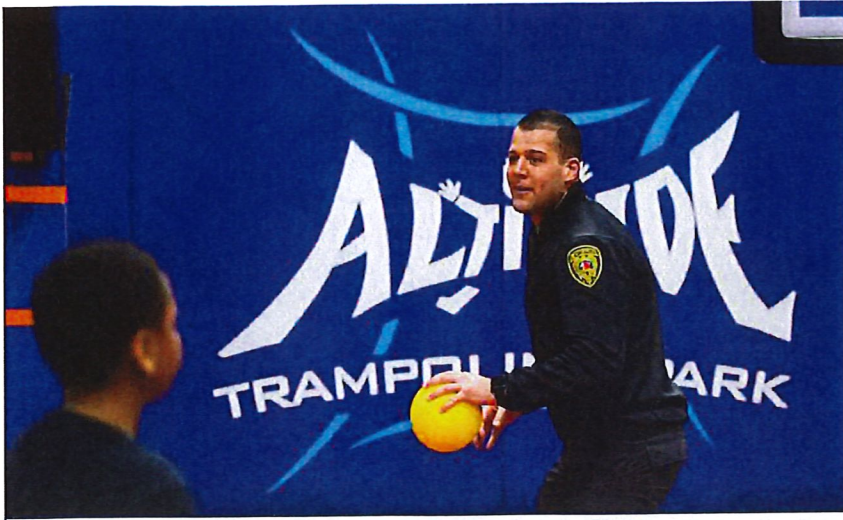
Damion McShepard and Kenneth Jenkins leveraged their ability earn money through chores at home to silence ridicule of an eighth-grade classmate.



### Postmaster Commends LPD Officer Iannantuono

On August 14, 2017, we were honored to receive a commendation for one of our officers from United States Postal Service. On July 14, 2017, a letter carrier called for assistance regarding a citize...

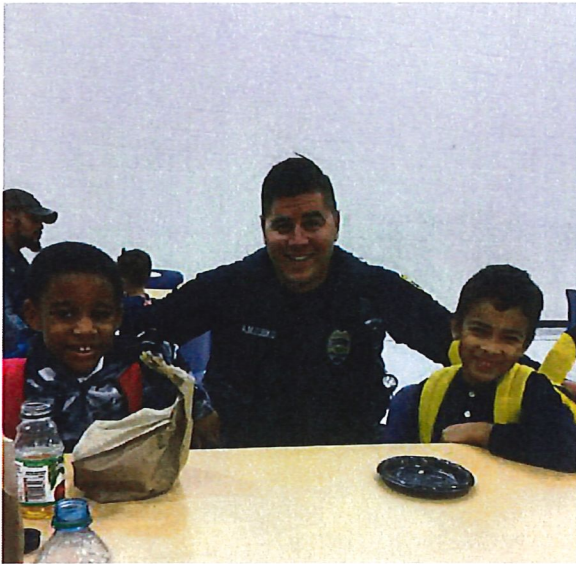




"NOW YOU'RE ALL IN BIG, BIG TROUBLE!"





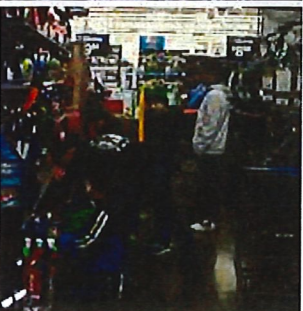


**POLICE OFFICERS  
PARTICIPATING IN LORAIN  
CITY SCHOOLS DONUTS  
WITH DADS PROGRAM**





**ANNUAL  
COPS &  
KIDS  
PROGRAM**



## POLICE EXPLORERS IN ACTION



**LETTERS OF APPRECIATION TO OFFICERS  
BY ST PETERS SCHOOL STUDENTS**



Presented to Lorain Police Department by Dylan Justice, grandson of  
Retired Officer Robert Konieczny  
November / 2017





ANNA NORRIS / CHRONICLE

Isabelle Velez, left, sits and talks with Lorain police Officer Jesse Perkins on Sunday at the police station.

## Officer honored for compassion

**Melissa Linebrink**  
The Chronicle-Telegram

LORAIN — Lorain police Officer Jesse Perkins heard a commotion coming from 10-year-old Josue Massas' hospital room Jan. 15 at Mercy Regional Medical Center.

After walking into the room, Perkins said, he saw how upset Josue was, but didn't understand why the boy was behaving irrationally.

Then Perkins said he learned of Josue's fate.

Josue has been battling neuroblastoma, a cancer that occurs predominantly in infants and young children, since he was 4 years old. Cancerous tumors have developed on his knees, elbows, spinal cord and now, his liver and lungs.

See **OFFICER, A2**

## OFFICER

From A1

Chemotherapy, radiation, long hospital stays and being away from his family and friends is the "the norm" for Josue, his cousin Isabelle Velez said.

But on Jan. 15, he had reached a breaking point.

"He just didn't want to be in the hospital," Velez said.

He wanted to go home.

Perkins said he felt hopeless as Josue cried and screamed. The officer, who was on duty at the time, contacted dispatch and asked if anyone at the station had stuffed animals that could be used when helping young children cope with adversity.

No one had anything to calm the young boy.

Perkins said he was extremely affected by watching Josue suffer.

"Cancer is a miserable thing, and when it's a child, it's not fair," Perkins said.

Perkins then went to Wal-Mart and purchased some toys for the boy with his own money.

The toys later were presented to Josue, who later was transported to University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland.

The act of compassion earned Perkins recognition from his peers, as well as Velez and Lorain Councilman Angel Arroyo Jr., D-6th Ward, on Sunday night at the Lorain Police Department.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did for Josue," Velez said, tears

streaming down her face.

But what Velez said next to Perkins and his fellow officers made them fall silent.

On Wednesday, Josue will be released from the hospital and begin hospice care in his home.

The years of chemotherapy and radiation were never meant to cure Josue, she said. They were only being used to prolong his life.

She said there is no fight left in the young boy.

"It's better to let him go because he has been fighting this since he was 4," Velez told the officers.

The family of Josue faces mounting medical bills, and Velez said there is no money for a funeral.

Arroyo and Perkins told her not to worry. Arroyo said he will reach out to local commu-

nity members seeking financial support while Perkins said he will do the same with his fellow officers and Lorain Fraternal Order of Police.

Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation can do so by sending funds to the Lorain Police Department, attention FOP, 100 W. Erie Ave., Lorain, OH 44052.

Arroyo applauded Perkins' efforts Jan. 15 by saying the world needs to know that police officers go above and beyond the call of duty to help those in need.

"There are a lot more officers like Officer Perkins, but they don't get credit, and the public needs to know about the good things being done," Arroyo said.

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