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## D.C. kids to shop with police at Target

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Some children in the District will be spending time with police this holiday season, and there's nothing punitive about it.

The city's Shop with a Cop program provides Target gift cards to as many as 150 children, who will go shopping with District police officers later this month, said Joe Persichini, executive director of the D.C. Police Foundation.

The foundation is sponsoring the initiative, along with the Metropolitan Police Department and Target.

Each child will receive a \$100 gift card for the shopping event, which will occur Dec. 21 at the Target store in Columbia Heights, Persichini said.

The holiday Shop with a Cop program is entering its fourth year. About 150 officers are slated to participate this year.

"It's just a great program. It lets them experience a very positive interaction with an MPD officer," Persichini said. "They can buy whatever they want and they get the opportunity to shop with a police officer."

Children are selected for the shopping program by school resource officers and D.C. police community officers. Selection of the students is based on their need and exhibiting good behavior, Persichini said.

And the foundation gets many calls from parents who want their children to be able to take part, Persichini said.

Donors and Target contribute the gift cards, and he said event sponsors are always seeking additional resources.

"We have far more requests for participation than we can handle," he said.

People who want to support the Shop with a Cop program can contact the D.C. Police Foundation through the foundation's Web site, [dcpolicefoundation.org](http://dcpolicefoundation.org), or by calling 202-481-3270.

[ebabay@washingtonexaminer.com](mailto:ebabay@washingtonexaminer.com)