

# GRANTS TO MPD

## YOUTH AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The good news that the media often neglects is the fine work of MPD in the community. Year-round each District Station hosts community events to include: clothing drives, Halloween safe havens, back-to-school events, and much more. The DCPF supports annual requests for proactive preemptive programs coordinated by MPD's School Resource Officers. Each year, the DCPF provides funds to MPD to support youth and community outreach programs.

- **Youth Advisory Council** – hosted by School Resource Officers, students, 14-18 years of age, are selected through the schools and meet once a month during school hours at different business locations. During the meetings, students participate in group-related activities, such as holding elections, planning group activities, problem solving, or a combination thereof. Monthly meetings include social and educational events (trips), educational seminars, special guest speakers who interact with the youth to encourage positive change, and basic career planning. Good citizenship is a common topic of discussion among the young people who participate in the Youth Advisory Council.
- **Beat the Streets** - is an endeavor to curtail violence amongst the youth of DC, while simultaneously engaging designated communities with resources from various government and private agencies. These agencies and vendors provide information to assist the community with health care, vocational, and financial needs as MPD engages residents to build stronger community-police relations, safer and healthier environments. Beat the Streets is hosted in six districts based on crime statistics and the areas in most need of service.
- **Shop with a Cop** – an annual, one-day holiday shopping spree at the Target DC store pairing officers with underserved, but deserving youth, many of whom are hand-selected and recommended to MPD by school counselors and principals. Each youth receives a \$100 Target gift card and to our surprise, most youth shop for their siblings and parent/guardian for needed items. MPD Officers believe that this program goes a long way in developing good relationships with families in low-income neighborhoods and in showing youth another side to law enforcement.
- **Reaching New Heights Summer Youth Academy** – organized by MPD's Youth Investigation Division, this program focuses on at-risk youth ages 8-13 that are challenged socially, academically, and physically to provide a safe and structured summer filled with life changing events while developing positive relationships between the youth and officers. Officers encourage youth to set realistic goals as they begin to "Reach New Heights" through leadership skills, conflict resolution, and bullying prevention training.

*"As a result of your knowledge and guidance, I feel that my granddaughter has a much deeper understanding of proper etiquette on how to keep your head up and take pride in oneself. You have really helped with my granddaughter's attitude about life and self-esteem. It is difficult to put into words how grateful she and I have been for your support and professionalism"*

- **The Junior Police Academy** - is a six-week summer program for DC students (14 – 18) who are curious about the law or law enforcement, politics, and the criminal justice system. Students gain an insider's perspective by learning about law enforcement and the internal operations of MPD and are exposed to the courts, lawyers, and judges. Through this popular program, MPD forges relationships with DC teens interested in a law enforcement career and mentors teens while allowing them a chance to learn about careers and job skills.
- **MPD Cadet Program** - provides educational and on-the-job training to qualified, recent graduates of District of Columbia high schools who are interested in becoming police officers with the DC Metropolitan Police Department. <http://mpdc.dc.gov/node/66212>
- **Metropolitan Wolverines** – is a youth initiative within the Third District and provides youth living in the Parkview community—a community riddled with violence, an opportunity to excel in sports and academic. Youth have an opportunity to participate in an organized sport in an adult-managed and safe environment. The program helps build character, self-discipline and leadership.