



Sherwood Police Foundation

Officer's Benefit Fund

History

In 2014 Sherwood citizens joined the ranks of large and small communities across the country in establishing a Police Foundation. The concept is over 40 years old, but recent history of tight city budgets has spurred new foundations nationwide.

The Sherwood Police Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to promote and strengthen community support for the Sherwood Police Department while bridging the budget gap beyond the basic equipment such as uniforms, fire arms and ammunition, which are the responsibility of the City of Sherwood to fund with their municipal budget. We invest in our officers to ensure they possess the necessary tools, resources, training, and programs to protect and more effectively serve our community, saving lives and preventing crime. Our community vision is to not only empower them to keep up with, but stay well ahead of, the technology being used by criminals and wrongdoers.

Through hard work and dedication, in just 4 short years, the SPF has Purchased a vest for our K-9 unit, purchased five new ballistic shields, invested in specialized training for our officers, purchased AEDs and emergency response bags, tourniquet kits, and held officer recognition and appreciation events. www.sherwoodpolicefoundation.org



What is the Officer's Benefit Fund?

Few people can say that their occupation includes an element of personal danger, but that is the reality for a police officer. Recent years have proven to be a tumultuous period for law enforcement across the nation and Sherwood has not been immune. We've had our share of tragedies from officer involved shootings, accidental deaths of children in our community, domestic abuse, and suicide. And while some might say it comes with the job, officers know they may be forced to risk their lives to protect and serve, the reality is they are exposed to distressing events that go far beyond the experiences of the ordinary citizen, sometimes on a daily basis. For these reasons, there is increased need to help officers deal with these experiences as police work becomes increasingly complex. It is our hope and belief that this effort, with a mind-body-soul approach, will positively affect the alarmingly high rates of PTSD, suicide, divorce, etc. that can plague law enforcement officers.

The Officer's Benefit Fund began, quite literally, with a black lab puppy, eventually named Mila. She was donated to the Sherwood Police Department by a local family hoping that she could bring comfort to the officers and the community in times of stress. That got the conversation started. How else could we support our officers with coping tools and methods to help them with the mental and emotional toll of police work? How else can we help our community? What started with a puppy has grown into a program that includes extensive and ongoing training for Mila as she learns to interact with the community and our officers in times of need, funding for our Police Chaplain, and a Respite Plan for our officers when needed.

Mila will sit in on victim interviews, be brought to traumatic incidents, provide comfort to the grieving and scared, and serve as an ambassador for the SPD.

