

## Sarasota Housing Authority Partners for 5th Annual Shop with a Cop Event for Underprivileged Children

The Sarasota Housing Authority, City of Sarasota Police Department and Target partnered for the fifth year to provide 100 underprivileged children with a unique holiday experience.

SHA's Shop with a Cop holiday shopping event is an initiative designed to help build positive and respectful relationships between law enforcement and children living in SHA communities.

Shop with a Cop pairs 100 local underprivileged children with local law enforcement to shop for holiday gifts at a local Target store prior to opening for the day. The event was held on Saturday, December 10, from 6 to 8 a.m. at the Target located at 5350 Fruitville Road in Sarasota.

IBERIABANK provided a significant grant, and SHA received other donations from local organizations and individuals during the 2016 Giving Challenge. The money raised provides a Target gift card for each of the 100 children.

"This is what the holiday spirit is all about," says Chief Bernadette DiPino, Sarasota Police Department. "We want to help children in our community build relationships with our officers. Shop with a Cop is a chance to help form relationships and educate our local families about the role that our officers play in our community."

"Having a safe, strong, vibrant community begins with having mutual respect and trust between community members and the men and women sworn to protect them," says SHA President & CEO William Russell. "Shop with a Cop builds positive relationships through this uplifting holiday event."

Those wishing to donate for next year's event can do so through the Sarasota Housing Authority's 501(c)3 affiliate, Sarasota Housing Funding Corporation (SHFC). Checks can be made payable to Sarasota Housing Funding Corporation with "Shop with a Cop" in the memo line. Credit card donations can be made online at [SarasotaHousing.org/SHFC.aspx](http://SarasotaHousing.org/SHFC.aspx). Checks or cash donations can be dropped off at the Sarasota Housing Authority, 269 South Osprey Avenue, Sarasota, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the Sarasota Housing Authority at 941/361-6210. 100% of donations will be spent on Target gift cards for the children. 🌿



*Sarasota Housing Authority's Shop with a Cop participants gather at Target for the annual holiday shopping event.*



*A Sarasota police officer helps children shop for holiday gifts at Target. Donations to the Sarasota Housing Funding Corporation help provide underprivileged children with a Target gift card.*

