

G.A.P.S. Newsletter

Gerrish Alternative Policing Strategies

"Community with Police...Caring & Sharing Together"

JANUARY 2025



New Year's Resolutions

The start of a new year is a perfect opportunity to set goals, plan your personal and professional growth, and challenge yourself to try something new or give up something old.

Only about 10% of those adults that set New Year's resolutions actually follow through on their goals. In fact, most of those that throw in the towel on their resolutions do so by January 12th and as a result the second Friday in January is now often referred to as "Quitter's Day." Sticking with resolutions can be a challenge but you can maximize your chance of success with a well structured plan.

Whether your 2025 goals are targeted toward health and fitness, personal or professional development, finances, relationships and social life, personal well-being, environmental and sustainability, learning and education, adventure and travel, or technology and digital habits, here are a few tips to help you stay on track:

- * Set small SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-Bound).
- * Visualize what your daily, weekly and monthly goals look like.
- * Schedule time for your goals and track your progress. Change takes time, be patient and don't get discouraged. Here's to a great year in 2025!

SHOP WITH A COP

Our 2024 Shop-With-A-Cop Program was a huge success! We had 22 individual and business donors that contributed over \$3,500.00 to this year's program. We were able to sponsor 10 families which included 18 children and 11 adults.

Applications for the program were obtained with the assistance of the Roscommon Area Public Schools and the families were selected based on criteria including need (household income), family size, monthly expenses and employment status. We do not repeat families from year to year so if an applicant has already been a program recipient in the past they would not qualify for the current year. Officers from the Gerrish Twp. Police Department shop with one child per family and then treat them to dinner or lunch afterwards. It is usually the oldest child from each family or a child that needs some one-on-one positive contact with an officer.

All of the gifts were wrapped by members of the community, ACT NOW, CERT and GTPD on December 16th and all the gifts were delivered to the individual families by GTPD officers on December 19th.

The Gerrish Township Police Department began their Shop-With-A-Cop program in 2002 and since then have given back over \$90,800.00 to the community assisting families in need at Christmas. To date, the program has helped out 178 families, 601 children and 290 adults with gifts and special needs for the holiday season.

We would like to THANK all of our program donors who continue to sponsor this great event year after year. We would not be able to continue to provide this community service without all your generosity and support!

THANK YOU!

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS:

JANUARY 3rd

ACT NOW Executive Board Meeting
10:00 am @ Gerrish Twp. Police Dept.

JANUARY 25th

Food Truck Distribution @ Roscommon Area Schools
Bus Garage (10:00 am until food is gone)

Kids Helping Kids

December of 2024 marked our "16th Annual" Kids Helping Kids Program. This program is different from our Shop-With-A-Cop Program as it is directed toward Roscommon County Foster Children and Foster Families.

Every year we partner with local agencies and groups to provide Christmas gifts and gift cards for food for foster children and their families. The children names and gift suggestions are provided by the Department of Health and Human Services and confidentiality is a requirement. Youth groups in our community shop for the gifts and wrap them with the assistance of committee volunteers and youth group leaders. DHHS staff deliver the gifts to the children and their families during the first part of December.

This year we provided gifts for 52 children placed in 21 families. Funding for this year's program came from:
ACT NOW

Gerrish Fire Fighters Association
Houghton Lake Rotary Club
Houghton Lake Rotary Interact Club
Roscommon Rotary Club
Roscommon Rotary Interact Club
Roscommon County Kellogg Youth Fund (RCCF)
Family Donor Advised Funds (RCCF)
Schroeder Foundation

We are still anticipating a donation from the Roscommon County Sheriff's Office "No Shave" 2024 Fundraiser. Over \$8,100.00 was spent on food gift cards for the families and presents for the children this year. As a note, each foster child only receives a \$25 gift card at Christmas from the State of Michigan which is why we started this program many years ago.

We would like to THANK all of the volunteers that serve on this special committee and represent ACT NOW, both the Houghton Lake and Roscommon Rotary Clubs and Interact Clubs, the Roscommon County Community Foundation and YAC (Youth Advisory Council), DHHS, and the Gerrish Township Police Department. THANK YOU also to the volunteers from the youth groups at the schools and organizations throughout Roscommon County.

Roscommon Food Distribution Partnership

Each month the Gerrish Twp. Police Department and volunteers from the Gerrish CERT team assist with the MDHHS drive-thru Food Distributions that are held at the Roscommon Area Public Schools campus. We have been assisting with these monthly events since 2020 to help provide a seamless flow with traffic as many people line up early and vehicles have to wrap around the Roscommon Middle School parking levels and make their way down to the Bus Garage area where the food is distributed from.

In 2024, 2,908 families were served and 6,334 individuals were served. 242 first-time families and 528 first-time individuals were served in 2024. 283 pallets of food were distributed totaling 211,137 pounds. 799 volunteers assisted throughout the year, this includes students and adults.

We would like to THANK CERT Coordinator Bob Barber and the CERT volunteers that help out with this event each and every month. It takes a lot of planning and work to coordinate this community service and we appreciate the effort!

2025 Food Distributions will be as follows:

JANUARY 25
FEBRUARY 22
MARCH 22
APRIL 26
MAY 17
JUNE 28
JULY 26
AUGUST 23
SEPTEMBER 27
OCTOBER 18
NOVEMBER 22
DECEMBER 13

Vehicles are asked to be in line by 9:00 am and distribution will begin approximately at 10:00 am. You will be asked to provide proof of residency (Roscommon County) and to remain in your vehicles throughout the process. Make sure you have space for the food in your vehicle and if you are picking up items for other families make sure you have proof of their residency also. These distributions are coordinated with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.