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LOCAL NEWS

Shop With A Cop For Back To School



230 Portland-area Kids To Shop With A Cop For Back-to-School Clothes at Fred Meyer

The Portland Observer

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First Black Women Jurist in Oregon to become a U.S. District Court Judge



Judge Adrienne Nelson and Libra Ford. Photo by Antonio Harris

US Senate confirms Judge Adrienne Nelson to a seat on federal bench

Helping 230 Underserved Children with Food and Clothes

Sunshine Division is partnered with Fred Meyer and the Portland Police Bureau to help 230 underserved children shop for back-to-school clothes with help from local police officers at the Johnson Creek Fred Meyer. The 21st annual Izzy's Kids "Shop With A Cop" event falls during the year of Sunshine Division's 100th anniversary of providing emergency free food and clothing assistance to families and individuals in the Portland metro area.

Each child received a \$150 gift card from Sunshine Division's Izzy's Kid's Fund for back-to-school clothing and other items, and they will be paired with an officer from the Portland Police Bureau to help them spend it. Fred Meyer, in addition to a cash donation,

will provide a significant discount off clothing purchased at the event along with school supplies and toiletries for each child and Columbia Sportswear is contributing backpacks for all participating children.

"This event is one of the best ways officers can build relationships with youth in our community," said Sunshine Division's Bureau Liaison, Officer Rashida Saunders. "I received help from the Sunshine Division growing up in Portland as a kid, so it's just full circle to become one of the people helping children in need."

Kids who participate in "Shop with a Cop" are selected based on their financial need and identified by multiple agencies including Portland Public Schools, Multnomah County, David Douglas School District, Portland Refugee Support Group, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Human Solutions, Oregon Department of Human Services, Neighborhood House, Somali American Council of Oregon, Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization and the Portland Police Bureau's

Muslim Advisory Council. "The need for this program is greater than it's ever been in our organization's 100-year history," said Kyle Camberg, Executive Director of Sunshine Division. During 2020-2023, Sunshine Division is helping as many as 10 times the number families as it did pre-pandemic at their two food pantry locations. At roughly 1,650 households served per week, this appears to have become the "new normal."

Sunshine Division funds the Izzy's Kid's "Shop with a Cop" event and year-round programs through its Izzy's Kids fund. Sunshine Division has funded and invested nearly a million dollars into the Izzy's Kids program in the last decade serving more than 4,000 children. Izzy's Kids, which began in 1981 in honor of longtime board member Isabel Hoyt, provides funds so that Portland police officers will support and shop with 230 children at this week's event, and additionally shop with up to 250 children in need, shopping for new school clothes throughout the school year in an one on one environment.