

Bethlehem Police Department

Department Programs

- Bethlehem Police Explorer Post
 - Hands on program open to young men and women who have completed the 6th grade and are interested in a career in law enforcement or a related field in the criminal justice system
 - Program promotes personnel growth through character development, respect for the rule of law, physical fitness, good citizenship, and patriotism
- Community Officers
 - 2 officers assigned to the north and south sides of the city, Bethlehem Mounted Patrol Unit, Bethlehem Housing Authority Officers
 - Interact with members of the community and address quality of life issues
- Citizen's Police Academy
 - Program designed to build a better understanding between citizens and law enforcement
 - Consists of class room instruction, demonstrations, and hands on activities
- Jr. Police Academy
 - 2 week program designed to show Bethlehem Area School District Middle School Students what it's like to be a police officer
 - Consists of class room instruction, demonstrations, and hands on activities
- National Take Back Day
 - Prescription medication collection event
 - Also offer a location for citizens to safely dispose of their meds at Bethlehem Police Headquarters
- Presentations to Community Groups/Organizations
 - Boy Scouts of America
 - Girl Scouts of America
 - Career Fairs at local colleges and universities
 - Daycare Facilities
 - Nursing Home Facilities
 - Churches
- Attend Community Events
 - Christmas tree toss for charity
 - Mayor's Tree Trimming Party
 - Moravian Village Community Breakfast
 - NAACP functions (MLK breakfast)
 - Block watches

Collaboration with Other City Departments

Health Department

- Police assisting in Recovery (PAIR)
 - Assist health department in providing individuals addicted to drugs resources to aid in their recovery
- Project Lifesaver
 - Search and Rescue program designed for “at risk individuals”, such as individuals with Alzheimer’s or autism, who are prone to the life threatening behavior of wandering
 - Participants wear a special wrist bracelet equipped with a small transmitter which emits a radio signal that law enforcement can track if the individual goes missing
- Social worker/police collaboration
 - Pilot program being implemented this November
 - Will consist of a social worker from the Health Department working closely with members of the police department to ensure that community members have access to the social service programs/resources they need
 - This collaboration will also result in members of the police department receiving yearly training in areas such as de-escalation, emotional and social intelligence, and crisis intervention

Parks & Recreation

- Fun & Fitness Event
 - Attend and participate in programming and have positive interactions with children
 - Examples of activities: bike safety presentation, yoga, basketball, etc.

Collaboration with County Organizations

Lehigh County

- Blue Guardian Program
 - A certified recovery specialist and a BPD officer visit victims of overdose who (1) was given Narcan (2) overdosed in Lehigh County
 - The visit occurs at the victim’s home and the purpose of the visit is to discuss treatment options with the victim and/or his or her family

Northampton County

- Northampton County Crisis Intervention Team Board
 - Currently 1 BPD officer serves on the Crisis Intervention Team Board as a law enforcement representative and as a Crisis Intervention Team trainer
- Northampton County Crisis Intervention Training
 - 40-hour training curriculum taught by local specialists from the law enforcement, behavioral health and consumer/advocate field
 - Training consists of: understanding common signs & symptoms of mental illness and co-occurring disorders, recognize when those signs and symptoms represent a crisis situation, safely de-escalate individuals experiencing behavioral health crises, and utilize community resources and diversion strategies to provide assistance
- Northampton County Recovery Court
 - 2 Officers assigned to the Northampton County Recovery Court team
 - Mission is to provide offenders the opportunity to engage in Court-monitored treatment and supervision in lieu of incarceration, and to rebuild their lives

Collaboration with Community Organizations

Bethlehem Area School District

- Clothing & Coat Drive
 - BPD school resource officers organize a clothing & coat drive and coordinate with school personnel to have the items distributed to students in need
- Dr. Seuss Day
 - Officers read a Dr. Seuss book to elementary school children
- Mock DUI Crash
 - Presentation by School Resource Officers and BPD Traffic unit to high school students on the dangers of drunk driving

Bethlehem Emergency Shelter

- Homeless Shelter
 - Assist the Shelter in the safe operations of their facility, help individuals with summary warrants resolve them with the magistrates

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

- “Bigs in Blue” program

- One-to-one mentoring program that connects youth with police officers, objective is to help build stronger bonds between law enforcement and the families they serve

Cops “n” Kids

- Cops “n” Kids Reading Room
 - Attend events, promote literacy, have positive interactions with members of the community
 - BPD hosts a drop off point for books to be donated to the Cops “n” Kids program

Good Shepard Rehabilitation Center

- Toy drive
 - Officers donate/buy toys and deliver them to children in the facility during the holiday season
 - Officers also attend the Center’s annual Christmas party and interact with the residents

Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest

- Toy drive
 - Officers donate/buy toys and deliver them to children in the facility during the holiday season

New Bethany Ministries

- Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
 - Various BPD officers serve a full thanksgiving dinner to individuals experiencing poverty, hunger, and homelessness

Resilient Lehigh Valley/United Way

- Handle with Care Program
 - Provides law enforcement with the ability to provide school officials with a “heads up” when a child has been identified at the scene of a traumatic event

St. Luke’s Hospital

- Toy drive
 - Officers donate/buy toys and deliver them to children in the facility during the holiday season