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## **Shelter House Children to Benefit from Shop with a Sheriff Program**

**RESTON, VA** – Shelter House is once again proud to partner with the Fairfax County Sheriff's office for their 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Shop with a Sheriff program, which benefits the county's homeless children in support of a new academic year.

On August 15, 2017, the Sheriff's deputies will pair up with 40 children from the county's emergency shelters for lunch and a back-to-school shopping trip at the Target location in Burke, Virginia. The Sheriff's Office raises enough funds throughout the year from businesses and individuals to provide each child a \$250 gift card to spend on clothing, shoes and accessories.

"There is so much positivity that comes from interacting with these kids and the staff from the shelters," said Sheriff Stacey Kincaid. "While their lives are filled with challenges, most of these kids still have a positive outlook. Although we are law enforcement, we want them to see that we care about them. The impression we make on them in just one day can last a lifetime. It is humbling and inspiring."

"Studies have recently shown that when children go back to school with new clothing and supplies, they will have a more successful academic year," said Shelter House Executive Director and CEO, Joe Meyer. "We serve nearly 1,400 individuals every year – more than half of those individuals are children. One of our top priorities at Shelter House is to encourage all of our youngest clients and to make them feel as optimistic and confident as possible while they are spending their time with us. Partnering with Sheriff Kincaid and the deputies every year is so rewarding and it is humbling to know our local law enforcement shares parallel priorities for our community's youth."

Shop with a Sheriff will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 11:00 a.m. with a pizza party at the Fairfax County Courthouse. At 12:45 p.m., all children, local shelter staff and Sheriff's Office personnel, will join together at Target in Burke to welcome 40 children with all they need to begin a successful school year.

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### **About Shelter House, Inc.**

Shelter House, Inc. is a community-based, non-profit organization that provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to homeless families and victims of domestic violence in our community. Our organization was formed in 1981, when several ecumenical groups came together to better serve Fairfax County's low-income population. Shelter House's administrative office is located in Reston, Virginia while operating three shelters in Fairfax County. Shelter House has been operating the Patrick Henry Family Shelter in Falls Church since 1985. In 2007, Shelter House was awarded Fairfax County's contract to operate the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter in Fairfax. In 2010, Shelter House became the first non-profit to operate Artemis House, Fairfax County's only 24-hour Domestic Violence Shelter. For more information about Shelter House and how you can get involved, visit [www.shelterhouse.org](http://www.shelterhouse.org).