



# BLAINE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

## **BLAINE PD HOSTS HEROES AND HELPERS EVENT (WITH 60 STUDENTS)**

**DATE:** December 11, 2018  
**TIME:** 3:00PM  
**PLACE:** Target (1500 109 Ave NE Blaine, MN)

**Interviews and photo opportunities will be available**

**Contact: Officer Michelle Ross, 763-286-2093 or [mross@blainemn.gov](mailto:mross@blainemn.gov)**

On Tuesday, December 11, 2018 beginning at 3:00PM, the Blaine Police Department will partner with Target, SBM Fire Department, Minnesota State Patrol, Anoka County Sheriff's Office, Lexington Fire Department, Lino Lakes Department of Public Safety, Centennial Lakes Police Department and Allina Emergency Medical Services, to conduct its 9th annual, Heroes and Helpers Event. The event will take place at Target, located at 1500 109 Ave NE Blaine, MN 55449.

Heroes and Helpers has been a huge success in past years due to strong partnerships. Event sponsors include Target, the Blaine Festival, the Blaine Police Federation, Petco and other private community members.

The program is organized by the Blaine Police Department with help from the Anoka-Hennepin, Spring Lake Park and Centennial School Districts, and their respective social workers. The social workers from each school select students; they know could use a little extra help and would benefit most from this event. The Blaine Police Department pairs these 60 students with a "Hero", who could be a Police Officer, a Fire Fighter, a Sheriffs' Deputy, a State Trooper or an Emergency Medical Services worker.

The Hero will pick the student up at their school and transport them in their respective emergency vehicles to Target. Once at Target, the Hero will help the student shop for his or her family with a donated \$125 gift card. After the student's Christmas list is fulfilled, the Hero and the student will wrap their presents, take photos in the photo booth and the student will be transported home.

The Blaine Police Department would like to welcome the media to cover this event. In nine years, our program has doubled in size, from 30 students to 60 students and is believed to be the largest Heroes and Helpers event in the greater metro area.

**Brian Podany, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief  
Friday, December 7, 2018**