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## NEWS RELEASE

### Troy Officer Selected for First Annual Service to Children Award

Officer Nickie Kaptur of the Troy Police Department was selected by the Detroit Automotive Dealers Association and Channel 4 News to receive the first annual Service to the Children Award. The award was presented to Officer Kaptur at last Friday night's NAIAS Charity Preview held at Cobo Hall in Detroit. The award is presented to a deserving candidate with a longstanding commitment to addressing the needs of children in southeast Michigan.

Troy Community Affairs Director, Ms. Cynthia Stewart, nominated Officer Kaptur. In her nomination, Ms. Stewart highlighted Officer Kaptur's long-standing performance and accomplishments as a member of the Community Services Section of the Police Department. Within that function, Officer Kaptur reaches out to parents, children, and teens on issues ranging from bike safety to dangerous drugs. Officer Kaptur has developed presentations aimed at assisting parents recognize subtle signs of drug use in their children and how to effectively intervene. Officer Kaptur developed a summer youth program to provide summer fun and developmental activities for kids whose working families had limited options for childcare and supervision during the summer months. Officer Kaptur developed and coordinates the Summer Jam Fests at the Troy Family Aquatic Center. Jam Fests offer younger teens opportunities to dance, hear local bands, swim, play volleyball, and just hang out on summer Friday nights in an alcohol and drug free environment. Officer Kaptur played a lead role in developing local peer mediation programs. She teaches a program called "Choose Wisely" to fourth grade students to help them recognize dangerous situations, say "no," and understand peer pressure. Officer Kaptur is the Department's liaison with the Troy Community Coalition and provides direct assistance on behalf of the Police Department supporting their on-going efforts against alcohol and substance abuse in our youth. Officer Kaptur developed and oversees the local Annual Locks of Love Hair Drive that has raised thousands of dollars and collected over 1000 ponytails to make hairpieces for children suffering from medical hair loss.

The Troy Police Department is proud of Officer Kaptur's longstanding contributions to the community in the areas of prevention and education aimed at young people. We applaud her for her dedication to these issues, as well as for receiving such a prestigious award. Thanks also go out to Ms. Cynthia Stewart, Director of the City's Community Affairs Department, for not only recognizing Officer Kaptur's contributions, but the professional assistance she and her staff consistently provide to the Police Department and our personnel as we strive to provide professional law enforcement service to the community. This award is not only a tribute to Officer Kaptur, but also to the community that provides the department with the resources to be in a position to dedicate an officer to prevention and education endeavors aimed at our children. It reinforces how much can be accomplished when the community, city management, city government, and local service organizations support one another and work cooperatively toward agreed upon goals.