Dayton Police officers are feeling the holiday spirit and will pass it onto the community through two annual traditions.

Officers and members of the Dayton Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #44 have been busy buying gifts and coats for the families of this year's Angel Tree. Families are 'adopted' by various units, their families, friends, and other City of Dayton employees, who provide needed gifts. Dayton FOP Lodge #44 also purchases new winter coats for the children.

This year, the Angel Tree will help 18 families, including 59 children, from across Dayton, which is nearly double the number of children who received gifts last year!

The other annual holiday partnership is with Miami Valley Career Technology Center adult education, which holds English as Second Language classes at St. John's United Church of Christ. Our officers will be spreading not only cheer but also warmth to dozens of families of Dayton's refugee community during the program's holiday party.

Donations of new winter hats, gloves, and mittens will help nearly 100 adults and children, many of whom are not used to sub-freezing temperatures, get through the cold winter months.

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(The media is invited to attend the MVCTC/St. John's ESOL party, at 10:00 a.m. on Dec. 21, 515 E. Third St.)