

With all the news of shootings and manhunts lately, it's easy to lose sight of the other side of police work.

Adrienne Mack and Detective **Charlotte Burns** aim to change that. Mack, director of the Preparing Parents Foundation, and Burns, the Wilshire juvenile coordinator, have partnered to show the Wilshire area that officers' jobs extend far beyond radio calls and arrests.

"The police station is a resource," Mack said. "It's not just the usual cops and robbers cliché."

To that end, she helped remodel the juvenile soft room, so children in temporary custody can feel more at ease within the confines of the station. She also worked with Burns to put together diaper bag kits that officers can take to calls involving young children and, most recently, the two managed to collect 75 coats—some brand new with tags still attached—for needy students at Saturn Elementary.

"Children don't have a voice," Mack said. "They didn't ask for their circumstance. They didn't ask to be in the police station. We can't let them become victims."

For Burns, a longtime children's advocate in her position handling juvenile victims of crimes, this seemed like a natural partnership. When Mack approached her for help, she immediately went to work gathering coats and finding needy kids to receive them.

"A lot of people don't see this side of officers," Burns said. "They think that we're here just to do a job, but we're really entrenched in the community. That's really the oath we take—to help people."



<Photo caption: Adrienne Mack, Detective **Charlotte Burns** and Lieutenant **Jiro Oka** hope to form an ongoing partnership between the non-profit Preparing Parents Foundation and Wilshire Division.>