

HENRY L. SHATTUCK

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

2018 Henry L. Shattuck Public Service Award Recipient

**Michelle Maffeo, Police Officer, Street Outreach Team, Boston Police Department**

Throughout her career as a **Police Officer** with the **Boston Police Department**, **Michelle Maffeo** has dedicated herself to helping a special community of citizens. Her work with those who have Autistic Spectrum Disorders or Alzheimer's, and their caregivers, has produced positive outcomes for them and the City of Boston.

In 2006, Michelle began a collaboration with the Autism and Law Enforcement Coalition of Massachusetts. Having learned that, on average, developmentally disabled individuals are seven times more likely than their peers to come into contact with law enforcement, Michelle began helping the City's first responders develop an understanding of challenges that confront these individuals and how to care for them compassionately.

The impact of Michelle's dedication is citywide. Her efforts have resulted in the development of a mandatory training program on autism and Alzheimer's for Boston police officers. Through this program, for which Michelle is the sole trainer, our officers are better equipped to help and support those who tend to wander or whose actions are sometimes difficult to understand.

Michelle's boundless energy has enabled her to bring this training program to the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office where she helps prison guards understand the needs and actions of a significant portion of their detainees. The State Police, Boston Police Academy Cadets and Park Rangers also benefit from Michelle's training. Recently, she and an EMS colleague began a similar program for Massachusetts General Hospital medical personnel.

The Northstar Alert Program for the City of Boston, initiated by Michelle, is another aid for this group of citizens. Through the program, police have a photo and description of a registered person who may have a tendency to wander. If he or she goes missing, the information can help officers locate the individual quickly. Further, if the person has trouble communicating, as often happens in these situations, police will be aware of that possibility, and be better equipped to help them.

Michelle regularly shares information on how the program works and provides workshops for challenged citizens, their caregivers, friends and relatives. Her tips on personal safety in public places, their homes and other venues have proven to be a boon for many families.

For additional information, please contact Boston Municipal Research Bureau at 617-227-1900