Team Meritorious Community Service Award – Philadelphia Police Dept. Administrative Staff, 35th Police District
(Honorees Alphabetically) Police Officer Antonio Bennett, Police Officer Jennifer Bryan, Police Officer Luz Centeno, Lt. Denise Duccilli, Police Officer Linda Hetherington, Police Officer Robert Hoppe, Police Officer Jacqueline Killen, Police Officer Miriam Campbell-Lloyd, Sgt. Walt Medycki, Police Officer Blanca Rodriguez and Police Officer Joseph Welch

These are officers who serve in positions that support District Patrol Officers. Rather than performing duties most commonly associated with a police officer, they do the work that enables their fellow officers and supervisors to perform their jobs most effectively. They were honored for the long list of events they participate in to make a difference in their community.

One of their favorite events is Widener School Day. Widener Memorial School is a school for children with various physical and medical disabilities. The Administrative Staff of the 35th Police District has essentially adopted these children, and they try to bring joy into their lives in any way they can. Widener Day includes a barbecue, games, dancing, visits from the Police Department’s mounted patrol horses and K9 units, and a special appearance by the Phillie Phanatic. These officers also visit the school on a regular basis, and hold a special Christmas Party there as well, complete with Santa Claus and gifts for every child.

One person in this group actually has the job of providing community service. Officer Antonio Bennett is the Community Relations Officer for the 35th Police District. He heads a long list of community activities hosted by the District in addition to Widener School Day. These include a Free Water Ice Give Away, a Clergy/Community Prayer Walk, a 5K run, and a Book Bag Give Away.