

1968

Patrolman William Chamar
Patrolman Elton "Jim" Vogel

Willoughby Police Department

Patrolman William Chamar and Patrolman Elton "Jim" Vogel of the Willoughby Police Department (along with Painesville Sergeant David Chappell) were honored with the Lake County Blue Coats Outstanding Service Award at a banquet at Hellriegel's Inn in Painesville Township. They were the first recipients of this award which would become a very prestigious honor for members of Lake County's safety forces.

The two officers were honored for their work and foresight in organizing the "Helping Hand" program in the City of Willoughby. The program encouraged residents to post a cardboard sign with a white hand in the windows of their home. A child encountering any kind of trouble would know that he could find help, and a safe haven, at that home. In today's world, we would call this program "community policing." Back then, these officers worked purely out of their love and concern for children of the community.

After leaving Willoughby P.D, William Chamar went on to serve as Chief of Police in the City of Mentor on the Lake. He is currently retired.

Patrolman Vogel later served as a detective with Willoughby, prior to his retirement. He was the speaker at the Blue Coats award dinner in 1975. He passed away on Christmas Day 2002 in Boulder City, Nevada.