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The Official Newsletter of **Operation Blue Shield**

# THE SHIELD



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# PUTTING WITH HEROES

Heroes and the sport of golf go together. The likes of Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicholas and our very own Jordan Spieth have been heroes to many throughout the years. And let's not forget when Annika Sörenstam made history playing at The Colonial in our own backyard. Still, the icons of the game are not the only way that golf and heroes come together.

Did you know that golfing events host approximately 143,000 charitable events and raise nearly \$4 billion annually which is then distributed to charities? The sheer number of charities who benefit means there are a significant number of individual heroes making a difference in their local communities. One such hero's efforts is now associated with Operation Blue Shield and our new partnership of **Putting with Heroes**: Lou Phillips.

Lou Phillips spent his life making a difference. During his thirty year career with American Airlines, he was an advocate for diversity. He then turned his energy to feeding the hungry and building "communities of trust". It was through this effort that **Putting with Heroes** was born. At each event, you see first responders and children working together as a team, developing a relationship and building trust. We are grateful for Lou's compassion, vision and effort toward helping his fellow citizen.

“ I AM HONORED AND PRIVILEGED TO KNOW LOU PHILLIPS AND WORK WITH HIM FROM THE BEGINNING. HE WAS TRULY ONE OF THE KINDEST AND NICEST MEN YOU COULD EVER HOPE TO MEET. TO BE INVOLVED WITH PUTTING WITH HEROES AND LOU PHILLIPS HAS AND WILL ALWAYS BE A BLESSING. ”

*Golfing legend, Kathy Whitworth*



“THE INTENT OF PUTTING WITH HEROES IS TO BRING FIRST RESPONDERS AND KIDS TOGETHER IN A FUN ENVIRONMENT SO BARRIERS CAN BE TAKEN DOWN AND WE CAN BUILD COMMUNITIES OF TRUST. ”

*Co-founder, Cathy Harbin*



## CEO'S CORNER

*"Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is beauty, admire it. Life is a dream, realize it."*

**Mother Theresa**

Mother Theresa spent the majority of her life tending to the poorest of the poor. She knew that not all neighborhoods are created equal and children living in areas of poverty have fewer opportunities to survive and do well. As she traveled the world, she spoke about the children she served, the smiles on their faces and the dreams they talked about, no matter their living environment. Mother Theresa understood the importance of life, love and helping others.

In a world that seems unsteady, we need those simple gestures of kindness and understanding. As citizens and neighbors, we have a duty to provide a better world for our children and their children. What better way than creating 'Moments in Time' to learn, understand, come together and have fun. 'UNITY through Sports' is all about sharing the fun and realizing that 'We're all IN'....this together.

As we say goodbye to October and enter the season of Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the many opportunities we have to show our children how wonderful this world can be. 'Putting with our Heroes' and "Halloween Trunk and Treat" are two programs focused on children having fun with their parents, their friends and the good men and women who have taken an oath to serve and protect us. The 'magic' of watching our children have fun and hearing their laughter, reminds us of our childhood and the importance we, as mentors, can play in their young lives.

Operation Blue Shield wishes your family and you a very happy Thanksgiving. Be safe and remember that "Life is a dream. Realize it".



## BILL'S CORNER

It takes a village working together to create safer neighborhoods and Cities of Opportunities. "Moments in Time" create unity that allow for better understanding, healthy cooperation, and most importantly, the means to focus a common goal which benefits one's family and one's country.

"Moments" create opportunities for community stakeholders and first responders to build trust which is imperative during times of need. Our donors, supporters and volunteers are instrumental in assisting OBS to bridge the gap between citizens and first responders. For instance, this month OBS and our wonderful team of volunteers have participated in the Dallas Police Department Northeast Division's Health and Safety Fair which served over 5,000 men, women and children. We celebrated an addition to the OBS/Community Learning Center located at Cielo Ranch Apartments (south Oak Cliff), and we watched thirty Camp DEFY children have fun as they learned how to play golf with two golf legends and Dallas Police Department Community Engagement officers.

In the coming year, we hope you, too, will get involved in our mission to create those special "Moments in Time" which can benefit and change one another.

# Trunk and Treat: San Angelo, Texas

Finding a safe place for our children to enjoy Halloween while gaining a sense of trust for our First Responders has been a focus of Operation Blue Shield (OBS) - San Angelo. On October 30, 2018, Angelo State University Police Department and OBS hosted our 2nd Annual Children's Halloween Trunk and Treat event. Held on the parking lot at Angelo State University baseball facilities, first responders from multiple agencies brought their patrol cars, fire engines and trucks to the event and formed a Circle of Safety. Local businesses joined in the fun and showed their support for our local heroes and our community. OBS volunteers manned the games for the children and provided the 'treats' for our First Responders to 'pay forward'.

The line formed early and soon stretched from the parking lot to the street. Patient parents and costumed children got to meet and greet our local heroes. Parents used those moments to talk about safety and encouraged their children to trust the good men/women in uniform. Comments heard from the crowd were unifying. "If you are lost and need help, this is the person you find because they will help you." A young child dressed in a SWAT costume was surprised that the SWAT officers were "really real". Several young girls were impressed by the female officers dressed in their uniforms. More and more children were dressed in First Responder costumes, and we expect even more next year.



At the end of the evening, San Angelo's finest expressed their gratitude for the over 6,000 people who showed up to celebrate Halloween and meet a First Responder. When the community takes the time to say "thank you" to a First Responder, the whole community benefits and neighborhoods grow stronger. Remembering that We're All In...This Together.



“ OPERATION BLUE SHIELD IS 100% FOCUSED ON BRINGING FIRST RESPONDERS AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TOGETHER FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY. OUR EVENT WAS AN INSTANT SUCCESS AND TOUCHED OVER 6,000 MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. IT IS AN HONOR TO BE A PART OF SUCH A WORTH WHILE ORGANIZATION. ”

*Pam Robinson, Volunteer*



**Upcoming Events:**

**November 21:** Eastfield College PG Community Room – Family Financial Literacy Session One @ 11:30 AM

**December 18:** Eastfield College PG Community Room – Family Financial Literacy Session Two @ 5:30 PM

**2019:**

**January 9:** National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

**April 13:** Kids 'N Kites Festival – Lakehill Prep Athletics Fields @ 10:00 AM

**July 30 – July 31:** Stop Violence Conference: Hurst Conference Center (Hurst, TX)

**TBD:** 2019 Run with the Heroes

**Camp DEFY 2019:**

**January 19:** TBD Location @ 10:00 AM

**February 16:** TBD Location @ 10:00 AM

**March 16:** TBD Location @ 10:00 AM

**April 20:** TBD Location @ 10:00 AM

**May 18:** TBD Location – Camp DEFY Graduation @ 10:00 AM

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Dallas Police Department Northeast Division's Health and Safety Fair

