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The Official Newsletter of **Operation Blue Shield**

THE SHIELD



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2018 HEALTH & SAFETY FOR ALL: OBS PARTNERS WITH DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

On 10 November 2018, Operation Blue Shield was honored to participate and partner with the Dallas Police Department's Northeast Division at their 25th Annual Kids Health and Safety Fair, which was held at RISD Lake Highlands High School. The parking lot was filled with fun opportunities for children including a DPD SWAT vehicle, a Dallas Fire Department fire engine, bicycle safety sponsored by Bicycle Rodeo Safety Training, an Old School Car Show and an In-N-Out Burger stand which cooked and served for 1,800+ people. While the event itself was free and open to all, this year's event focused on providing services for children with special needs.

Throughout the event, first responders and community volunteers gave away

children's coats, turkeys, games, bicycle helmets and other resources, including free flu shots as well as health and hearing screenings.

Operation Blue Shield facilitated the participation of the Lions Club Sight and Tissue Vision Van. Their doctors provided thirty five on-site eye exams and free glasses for these lucky children.

Sponsors of the event included: Operation Blue Shield, Dallas Children's Charities, American Society of Safety Professionals, Richardson Independent School District, Dallas Independent School District, Ebby Halliday Realtors, the White Rock Partnerships, In-N-Out Burger and the United States Department Of Justice - Office of the U.S. Attorney.



“THE IMPACT OF THIS YEAR’S 25TH KIDS SAFETY & HEALTH FAIR IS IMMEASURABLE TO BRINGING UNITY INTO THE COMMUNITY THAT DPD NORTHEAST DIVISION SERVES AND PROTECTS. OUR OFFICERS WORKED LONG HOURS COLLECTING AND THEN GIVING AWAY MORE THAN 1,000 WINTER COATS, 750 BIKE HELMETS, 100 TURKEYS FOR THANKSGIVING MEALS, COORDINATED FREE FLU SHOTS AND SO MUCH MORE. DPD NORTHEAST DIVISION OFFICERS ARE PART OF THE COMMUNITY AND ARE TOTALLY DEDICATED TO THE WELFARE OF EACH AND EVERY CITIZEN.”

DEPUTY CHIEF AVERY MOORE, DPD EAST PATROL DIVISION



CEO'S CORNER

“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.”

Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa

At the launch of President Nelson Mandela’s Children Fund, he wisely recognized that young people should be our highest priority because they are tomorrow’s leaders.

Across America and the world, there are far too many homeless and neglected children. Statistics show that children living in poverty do not get to experience the innocence of childhood because of the obvious side effects of poverty; contrast hunger, lack of education and brain development, poor physical health, depreciation, worry and fear of the unknown. Oftentimes, poverty follows a young child into adulthood.

As we enter the holiday season, it is important to remember that extending a hand to improve the quality of life of another helps our children, our communities and our country grow stronger and safer. The mission and vision of Operation Blue Shield is to foster positive relationships between our first responders and the citizens they serve. By doing so, we bring UNITY back into our COMMUNITY and create safe, healthy, thriving neighborhoods for all. Creating a sense of security coupled with community inclusion allows our children to excel in life so they can pursue, "their" American dream.



BILL'S CORNER

In Dallas, TX, there are 4,000 homeless people living on the street or in shelters everyday. A few years ago, the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) made the decision to offer free lunches for every child because of the sheer volume of children coming to school hungry.

Generally speaking, society believes poverty is being homeless or not having enough money for a decent meal. That is easy to understand but is only partly true. Oftentimes, in a family where at least one person is employed but they are still living on the edge of poverty, it only takes one financial setback to lose a place to live and require government assistance.

In Dallas, the number of families that are homeless are far too many. The number of families living one incident away from being homeless is staggering. Every family is fighting hard for a better life, a better education & a better world for their children. Their choices are limited because the working poor typically live in low rent apartments where crime is high & drugs plentiful. This type of environment becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy of lifetime poverty.

At OBS, we know children need positive & consistent mentors to overcome the negative influences around them. That is why we are pleased to partner with the Dallas Police Department. We are also delighted to partner with Heroes, Cops & Kids, a organization founded by former and active 1st responders who want to give back to the community they once served.

We look forward to working with our partners and creating a better community for everyone.

Mission Accepted: OBS & Heroes, Cops and Kids Partnership

“THE OPERATION BLUE SHIELD AND HEROES, COPS AND KIDS PARTNERSHIP IS AN OUTSTANDING WAY TO BRING FIRST RESPONDERS AND OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS.....OUR CHILDREN. IN A WORLD THAT OFTENTIMES SEEMS UPSIDE DOWN, THE MIGHTY HAND OF A SUPER HERO WHO CARES ENOUGH TO STOP AND LISTEN CAN CHANGE THE LIFE OF A CHILD FOREVER. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HCK.”

Kerry Goodwin, Community Outreach Manager

In 2012, Heroes, Cops and Kids (HCK) was founded by Rick Campbell and Ray McCampbell, two former Dallas Police Officers. Both men felt a strong need to stay involved in their community by mentoring and helping America's younger generation, especially those children facing life's most difficult challenges like terminal illnesses and the allure of street gangs.



Dressed as America's Super Heroes...Batman, Hulk, X-Men, IronMan, Wonder Woman, Black Panther and many more, they travel to public events, schools, hospitals, sporting events, etc. They speak about the virtues of making positive life decisions, improving study habits, coping with peer pressure and how to deal with bullies who are often found in the classroom, play grounds and/or social media. These heroes work extra hard to help children with disabilities, chronic illness as well as behavior disorders. The efforts of HCK enrich the lives of not only the children but their families and the communities where they live and work.

“ IN THE BEGINNING, WE STARTED WITH RAY PORTRAYING GREEN LANTERN AND ME PORTRAYING BATMAN. TODAY, WE HAVE A WHOLE GROUP OF VOLUNTEER HEROES WHO ARE ACTIVE POLICE OFFICERS, RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS WHO DEDICATE THEIR PERSONAL TIME TO CHANGING THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER. STAN LEE, THE LATE GREAT LEGENDARY WRITER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF MARVEL COMICS, WOULD BE PROUD. HCK IS EXCITED TO PARTNER WITH OBS.”

Rick Campbell, Co-founder

Upcoming Events:

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

June 29: OBS Frisco Rough Riders Baseball Game

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

TBD: 2019 Run with the Heroes

Camp DEFY 2019:

January 26: Naval Air Station in Fort Worth, TX @ 9:00 AM

February 16: African American Museum @ 10:00 AM

March 16: TBD Location @ 10:00 AM

April 20: Bonton Farms in South Dallas, TX @ 10:00 AM

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

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

