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The Official Newsletter of **Operation Blue Shield**

# THE SHIELD



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# TRIALS TO TRIUMPH

Commander Chris Kishiyama (Kish) is the youngest of three children born to parents who were cocaine traffickers. As a child, he was unaware of this and thought nothing about seeing strangers passed out in the living room as he made a bowl of cereal and watched morning cartoons. He thought this was normal and every family did this.

At 12 years old, Commander Kish found the body of his brother who was an addict and had committed suicide. This tragedy was a wakeup call for his parents who immediately went into rehab but found their habit was hard to conquer. Although his father relapsed and overdosed once, his parents finally returned home ready to lead a better life. They became preachers and started a ministry dedicated to helping addicts.



At his father's one-year sobriety, a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent arrived at their home and informed the family that the agency had decided not to pursue criminal charges against the parents. Reason given: their hard work and dedication to helping others had saved the lives of several men, women and young adults. The compassion of the officer and his words of encouragement to keep the family unit together so they could help others turned the commander's life into a life of service.

“ IN THAT MOMENT, [THE OFFICER] HAD THE ABILITY, OPPORTUNITY AND INTEGRITY TO DO THE RIGHT THING AND THAT WAS THE MOMENT I DECIDED TO BE A POLICE OFFICER. ”

*Commander Chris Kishiyama*

Commander Kish developed the OBS|Foundation of Trust that is designed to give citizens and first responders an opportunity to listen to the other side and rebuild bridges of trust. The program brings real-world applications into classroom settings with an emphasis on fairness, integrity and human dignity.

OBS is proud of Commander Kishiyama's leadership and the example that he has set for his community, his family and others.



## CEO'S CORNER

*"Children are our most valuable resource & its best hope for the future."*

**John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States**

*"It is easier to build strong children than repair broken men or women."*

**Fredrick Douglass, Writer and Statesman**

Fredrick Douglass was born around 1818, escaped from slavery and led an abolitionist movement. John F.

Kennedy was born into wealth, attended the best schools and became a United States president. Although both men were born a century apart, they understood the responsibility of helping a child acquire the values and skills needed to grow into well-rounded responsible adults.

As adults, we play a vital role in creating a safe and secure world for our children and their children. Simple gestures of kindness and understanding empower a child to make better decisions, take responsibility for their actions and help them grow into adults who can change the world for the better.

Understanding there are children and families living around us that need our help is the first step. No matter the child and no matter the neighborhood, let's connect the dots and work together for a stronger, safer America.

Join us at Operation Blue Shield and be part of our mission.



## BILL'S CORNER

At Operation Blue Shield, we strive to create moments that build lasting moments of empowerment, encouragement and physical fitness for children. Playing is the work of children and how they learn. Positive play with others, including the family, helps with brain development and is a key factor to social and emotional development.

America's youth is living in a world full of peer pressure, negative news, drugs and endless social media. Good or bad, our children are easily influenced by things they see, hear and admire. At OBS, our approach is to provide community building opportunities for parents, their children, citizens and first responders to come together and create 'Moments in Time' to better understand, mentor, laugh, get physically fit and have fun.....together.

The OBS|Community Learning Centers are safe, secure after-school facilities where children are mentored and tutored. In our 'Unity through Sports' programs, participants are empowered to pull for the underdog and cheer the winner on to victory. Participating in a sport together is a healthy way to break down barriers and dispel stereotypes which helps our children and gives them a sense of 'commUNITY'. A few examples include: Kids 'N Kites, Run with Heroes, Putting with Heroes, Baseball with Heroes.

Join us and be a part of building a better world for our children. We owe them that much.

# Getting a Kickstart

“PURPOSEFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE FORM OF OUTREACH TOWARDS MENTORING FUTURE LEADERS TOWARDS SUCCESS AND THE AVOIDANCE OF DELINQUENT AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR”

*Chief of Grand Prairie Texas Police Department, Steve Dye*

Operation Blue Shield seeks to improve the quality of life for children, at-risk youth and those living in underserved neighborhoods. Kickstart Kids® | Operation Blue Shield is a strategic partnership benefitting youth school fitness curriculums. Created by Chuck Norris this character development program uses karate to empower youth core values, such as discipline and respect, to archive their greatest potential. The uniqueness of this strategic partnership program is the integration and participation of a first responder one day/week. This not only adds to a safer school environment but it provides positive interactions between the students, families and first responders. In addition, officers have an opportunity to earn karate certification and become actively involved helping America's youth.



Kickstart Kids black belt instructors teach character through karate and empower America's youth with core life values, i.e. discipline, honesty, respect, etc. so they can achieve their greatest potential. The weekly presence of a first responder interacting with the students adds to a safer school environment and supports better interactions between all parties.

Every community needs to take an active role in supporting the efforts of our teachers and our school districts. The Operation Blue Shield/Kickstart Kids model is a unique way for citizens and first responders to partner with a school and change the life of a child, their family and their community.

**Upcoming Events:**

**February 6:** OBS | RISD Children's Eye Clinic | Audelia Creek Elementary @ 8:00AM

**February 13:** OBS | RISD Children's Eye Clinic | Forestridge Elementary @ 8:00AM

**March 20:** OBS | RISD Children's Eye Clinic | Westwood Jr. High @ 8:00AM

**March 27:** OBS | RISD Children's Eye Clinic | Lake Highlands Jr. High @ 8:00AM

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

**April 27:** San Angelo Run with Heroes Race

**June 29:** OBS Superhero Night Ball Game | Dr. Pepper Ballpark

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

**October 26:** San Angelo Trunk and Treat

**TBD Fall:** Run with Heroes North Texas Region

**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

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**What is YOUR moment?**



Moments in time shape us. We want to know a moment that you experienced a positive interaction with a first responder and/or community member. Please take a minute to the answer the survey below!