

March 2019

The Official Newsletter of **Operation Blue Shield**

# THE SHIELD



## In This Issue:

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Putting UNITY back into CommUNITY

01

CEO's Corner

01

Pay It Forward

02

President's Corner

02



# Putting UNITY back into CommUNITY

"What do you want? Dead cops. When do you want them? Right now." I still remember the first time I heard those chilling words four years ago as I was sitting in a NYC hotel room having a cup of coffee. I was stunned and even more alarmed to hear the words being chanted by a group of Americans as they marched down the street. That shocking 'moment in time' became my call to action.

After placing calls to former Dallas Police Chief David Brown and Mayor Mike Rawlings to discuss what I was witnessing, I start Operation Blue Shield, 501(c)(3), dedicated to improving relationships between citizens and first responders. Where and how to start was the question?



After hundreds of hours crisscrossing America and meeting/working with first responders as well as citizens living in communities desperate for change, it became evident that everyone wanted the same thing.....a safe place to live, work and raise their families. I learned that to break the cycle of hate, we needed to work collectively towards a common goal of understanding and trust. Anything less would not be sustainable.

Our motto became "We're all In"....this together. Our comprehensive cause minded programs address needs in education, safety, health, employment civic engagement and advocacy. The cycle begins with us. Collaboration is the key and that only happens when the power of one becomes the 'Power of Many'.



## CEO'S CORNER

*"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world."*

**Robin Williams**

Our ribbon represents UNITY and America at its best. The yellow in the ribbon represents citizens like you and me living and working everywhere. The blue on either side represents first responders protecting us.

It is important to remember that first responders are also citizens who have taken an oath to serve and protect others. First responders are doctors, teachers, veterans, judges, city council members, mayors, members of the armed forces, police officers, sheriffs, firemen, government employees, etc. They are also parents, sisters, brothers, go to our churches, their children attend our schools, go to the same shopping centers, dry cleaners, etc.

America is at it's best when both sides work together. At OBS, we put the UNITY back into CommUNITY.







## BILL'S CORNER

My fondest memories of being a child are the moments with my parents learning to shoot a basketball, fish and ride a bike. These moments created trust with my parents & helped shaped me into the man I am today.

Our Unity through Sports program creates positive 'moments' for children, parents and first responders to shape the way children view their future. These moments allow families an opportunity to better understand our complex society, build trust and create UNITY with the good men and women who have taken an oath to serve and protect us.

First responders are teachers, emergency room doctors, nurses, mayors, city council members, laws enforcement, firemen, sheriffs, military and veterans, etc. At some point in everyone's life, they take on the role of a first responder.

Unity through Sports is an important way to understand that having a common goal of creating a safer, stronger America helps everyone and, most importantly, our children.

## PAY IT FORWARD

Though Abigail Arias is going through a tough time, she is one strong six year old who has captured the hearts of strangers. On March 16th, Dallas Police Officers assigned to the Central Patrol Neighborhood Unit along with Crispy Kreme Donuts sponsored a fund raiser during the Saint Patrick's Parade. They titled it Dunk n' Donate. A dunking booth was donated and commanders with the Dallas Police Department volunteered to be dunked for donations for Abigail. They were able to raise \$900.00 for Abigail and her family who live in Freeport, TX.



Our First Responder's hearts are large and their effort to serve remarkable. On a cold morning in Dallas, they were willing to be dunked in cold water for a little girl they will never meet. Their continued service goes beyond the daily calls they make. At Operation Blue Shield, we see this dedication repeatedly and are fortunate enough to share this special story with you.





**Upcoming Events:**

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

**March 23:** Putting with Heroes | Tenison Golf Course @ 12:00PM

**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

**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 and San Angelo

**Camp DEFY 2019:**

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

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

**August 4-10:** Camp DEFY

