



## Behind the Badge

E-News from the Law Enforcement Foundation

Dear LEF Supporter,

Welcome to the Law Enforcement Foundation's December e-newsletter – *where we honor our supporters* and share news about our Foundation programs.

### **Thank you to our loyal supporters!**

We'd like to *extend our sincere appreciation* to the following donor for their recent support of LEF:

### **Motorola Solutions Foundation, \$15,000**

The Motorola Solutions Foundation's Public Safety Grants aim to support safety education and training programs for first responders, their families and the general public in the United States and Canada.

"Motorola Solutions is dedicated to helping people be their best in the moments that matter," said Matt Blakely, director of the Motorola Solutions Foundation. "Motorola Solutions Foundation aligns itself with this mission by supporting programs like the Law Enforcement Foundation's (LEF) Police Executive Leadership & Management Training Series that train people how to respond to potential safety problems or recover from the loss of a first responder. We are proud to see these valuable programs make a positive impact in the communities where we live and work."

The LEF is grateful for Motorola Solutions Foundation's generous donation, which will aid officers in the development of the skills needed to enhance and protect the quality of life for all Ohio citizens.

## **LEF Welcomes New PELC Director Harry Trombitas**

Please join the Law Enforcement Foundation in welcoming new Police Executive Leadership College Director Harry Trombitas. As a former FBI agent, Mr. Trombitas brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him to the organization.

For nearly 30 years, Mr. Trombitas worked on several high-profile FBI cases in Omaha, St. Louis, and New York City before coming to Central Ohio in 1991. Mr. Trombitas served in various positions including profiling coordinator and spokesperson. In addition to aiding in the capture of infamous serial killer Thomas Dillon who killed five people in Central Ohio in the late 80s and early 90s, Mr. Trombitas became known for his colorful nicknames for bank robbers who plagued the region. He used descriptive names, including “Three-Eyed Bandit” and “Church Lady Bandit,” to help witnesses identify serial bank robbers, which led to arrests and a significant decrease in crimes of that nature.



**Harry Trombitas**

Mr. Trombitas has utilized his skills to instruct others in the criminal justice field, taught Sociology at his alma mater, The Ohio State University, and worked as senior consultant at ARMADA, a preparedness and protection solutions company.

Mr. Trombitas earned a Bachelors in Criminal Justice from The Ohio State University, and a Masters in Counseling and Psychology from Creighton University.

## **CART Helps Multiple Agencies Aid in Search and Rescue Efforts for Missing Girl**

Russells Point, Ohio, is a quaint community on the southern base of Indian Lake. Although the tight-knit community has a population of just 1,619, every year an influx of tourists visit the community. “In Indian Lake, the population is relatively low, but in the summer we have an increase in recreational activity and we have a lot of seasonal homes, [which] can make our population go up to 20-40,000



depending on if it's Fourth of July weekend," Chief Joe Freyhof, Russells Point PD said. "What we have is children, and even young adults, who get separated from their families and typically they walk away from the beach with friends or go separately to places to eat and don't come back when they're supposed to. We generally found either pining cell phones or using Facebook or other social networks useful. [Missing persons reports] are not unusual for us, but typically it's about an hour to three-hour window that somebody's recovered and there's no imminent danger." However, recently an endangered missing child was reported in Russells Point, and the Russells Point PD utilized the Law Enforcement Foundation's (LEF) Child Abduction Response Team (CART) for the first time.

On November 24, an 11-year-old girl was reported missing by her step-father. The Russells Point PD conducted neighborhood canvasses and interviews with registered sexual offenders in the area. As the night drew to an end and the missing girl could not be located, Chief Freyhof requested assistance from CART. CART prepares law enforcement officers and non-law enforcement entities, such as victims' advocates, hospitals, and local volunteer search and rescue groups, to quickly respond and utilize local resources in the event of a missing persons or abduction case.

Although Russells Point PD is a smaller police department with five officers, the department was able to enlist help from several other agencies from CART the morning after the girl had initially gone missing, significantly increasing manpower. Chief Freyhof's team prepared photos of the missing girl and other key information for CART members, and the team went to work. "Once we got boots on the ground, everybody snapped to whatever their area of expertise was," Chief Freyhof said.

As designed by CART to be the most effective in search and recovery missions, both law enforcement officers and non-law enforcement officers responded to the call. First responders included members from local law enforcement agencies and the FBI. Individuals from the Ohio State Highway Patrol, a fire department, the National Center for Missing Exploited Children, and a search and rescue organization also assisted in the search and investigation of the missing girl.

After a reverse 911 call, in which dispatchers call to alert area residents living within a five-mile radius of Russells Point of the situation, the missing girl was quickly identified outside of a local Taco Bell restaurant and returned safely to her home. The CART operation was disbanded on November 25 at 9:09 am, less than 14 hours after the child was initially reported missing.

"I was excited to get a free run that didn't end in tragedy," Chief Freyhof said. "[CART] was a great resource to have."

Ohio CART training is offered exclusively by the LEF. For more information on CART, visit the LEF [Web site](#).



Safer communities through education and leadership in law enforcement education.