



Making A Difference Everyday

JULY 2013

Thank You to Our Loyal Supporters!

We gratefully recognize these recent gifts, which are helping us to protect the safety and well-being of communities throughout Ohio:

- Berry Family Foundation
- Montgomery County Chief of Police Ass.
- Squire Sanders LLP

We are also thankful for these 2013 gifts that are supporting our D.A.R.E. Training programs:

- Applied Industrial Technologies
- Delaware Police Department
- GoJo Industries
- The J.M. Smucker Company

Please show your support!

Partner with us in making our Ohio communities even stronger and safer places to live, work, and play.

- Make a tax-deductible gift at www.lef-of.org.
- Sponsor an LEF program by contacting Donna Braxton, CEO at donna.braxton@oacp.org
- Enroll your Kroger Plus Card in Kroger's Community Rewards Program and select LEF as the recipient

IN THIS ISSUE

Our monthly newsletter brings special focus on the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program with the following news briefs:

- LEF D.A.R.E. Alumnus - Sergeant Don Wilson of the Springboro OH Police Department – Named National D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year
- About D.A.R.E.'s Expanding Mission & How LEF Supporters Are Making A Difference in Ohio
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LEF D.A.R.E. Alumnus – Sergeant Don Wilson of the Springboro OH Police Department – Named National D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year

D.A.R.E. America named Sergeant Don Wilson, the Springboro Community City Schools Resource Officer, “National D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year” at the group’s national conference held July 16-18, 2013. Sergeant Wilson is the current President of the D.A.R.E. Association of Ohio. The award is given to individuals who show exceptional dedication to D.A.R.E.’s high standards of education.



Sergeant Wilson is a graduate of the [Law Enforcement Foundation's](http://www.lef-of.org) two-week D.A.R.E. Ohio training program. Affectionately known as ‘Officer Don,’ Sergeant Wilson became the first police officer to teach D.A.R.E. curriculum at Springboro Schools in 1992. And he has continued to teach students, from second grade through high school, for over twenty years. He is also a “School Resource Officer” for the Springboro School District, serving as a visible presence of law enforcement as well as the first line of protection during catastrophic events.

Kari Parsons, the Law Enforcement Foundation’s training director for D.A.R.E. Ohio, adds that Wilson actively lobbies at a state level to keep D.A.R.E. programs in the schools. He also serves on the annual D.A.R.E. conference planning committee, and has helped to develop the D.A.R.E. Officer Longevity Award.

Congratulations to ‘Sergeant Don’ for this well-deserved service recognition!

About D.A.R.E.'s Expanding Mission & How Your LEF Support is Making a Difference in Ohio



Visit [D.A.R.E. America](http://D.A.R.E.America) and you will see a new tagline – **“Teaching Students Good Decision-Making Skills to Help Them Lead Safe and Healthy Lives.”**

Although D.A.R.E. is still committed to “Drug Abuse Resistance Education,” the new tagline reflects how its mission has expanded over the past 30 years with additional programming that helps kids to develop skills in handling peer pressure and avoiding involvement in bullying, theft, gangs, violence, and more.

D.A.R.E. began in 1983 with a detail of only ten police officers deployed to just a handful of classrooms in Los Angeles. Their mission was to bring a new and critically important substance abuse prevention program to students. Today there are more than 25,000 D.A.R.E. officers delivering D.A.R.E.'s expanded lessons in classrooms (kindergarten through 12th grade) throughout every state of our nation and in 47 countries around the world.



There are many reasons for the success and expansion of D.A.R.E.'s mission over the past 30 years. But one important reason is D.A.R.E.'s commitment to provide relevant and effective programming for students and the challenges they face. To help accomplish this goal, D.A.R.E. uses advisory committees consisting of highly respected experts in the field of education, science, and law enforcement who work together to critically review class content, instructors' performance, and student feedback. And program changes and updates are made available to law enforcement officials at the D.A.R.E. Annual Conference as well as through D.A.R.E. trainings held at the state level.

In Ohio, it is important to note that the Law Enforcement Foundation (LEF) is the only organization in the state qualified to train D.A.R.E. Officers. Since 1988, **LEF has trained over 1,560 D.A.R.E. Officers.** And currently there are 210 certified law enforcement officers teaching D.A.R.E. in 60 of Ohio's 88 counties.

Please know we are deeply grateful to the businesses, foundations, organizations, and individuals that help make possible LEF's D.A.R.E. training programs. Because of you, **we are helping students throughout Ohio to learn good decision-making skills that will help them to lead safe and healthy lives.**

What U.S. Leaders & LEF Trained Officers Say About D.A.R.E.

“... DEA supports the D.A.R.E. Law Enforcement Executive of the Year Award. We know drug abuse is one of our nation’s greatest challenges: it costs our nation nearly \$2 trillion every decade, and kills more than 38,000 Americans a year – more than automobile incidents, fires, guns, and any other single cause of injury death. This is not a law enforcement challenge alone. **We know education, such as the prevention education D.A.R.E. provides, is a powerful deterrent that can stop drug use before it starts.**”

– Michele M. Leonhart, Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration
U.S. Department of Justice

“Preventing drug use before it begins – particularly among young people – is the most cost-effective way to reduce drug use and its consequences in America... When programs help our young people understand the risks of substance use, perceptions can change. Because of this, we must continue to educate youth, parents, and other adult influencers about the harms and health risks of drug use... And this **[D.A.R.E. Conference] agenda is filled with opportunities to learn about evidence-base prevention programs...**”

– R. Gil Kerlikowske, Director
U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy

“The DARE curriculum is not anything like I thought it would be. The two week training was exhausting but so worth it. **My class and I are now empowered to help Ohio’s students not only say no to drugs and alcohol, but to boost their self-esteem and to teach them solid decision making skills.**” – Officer, Class #62

“DARE training was not all about “just say no” like it was when I had DARE as a kid. I am now ready to help the kids in my school district make wise choices, feel better about themselves, resist being bullied and bullying others.” – Deputy Sheriff, Class #63

“The two week DARE officer training was very intense, pushed me past my perceived comfort level but it was TOTALLY worth it in the end. The DARE curriculum message is essential for ALL students to learn.” – Police Officer, Class #62

“The instructors for this DOT are so committed; we were not an easy group. Law enforcement officers don’t like change, don’t like others telling them what to do. But our instructors got us over that with patience and taught us an awesome new way to teach young people how to make positive choices. I feel I can truly make a difference in the lives of children.” – Police Sergeant, Class #64

The D.A.R.E. 2013 Conference – Photo Highlights

Photos are from the 26th **D.A.R.E. International Training Conference** held on July 16 - 18, 2013 at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, OH.



The “Introduction of the Colors” at the opening ceremony by Fairfield Township Police Department Honor Guard



Ohio D.A.R.E. Officer and Student in the opening ceremony’s “Parade of Flags” that included all 50 states and 47 international countries currently conducting D.A.R.E. Programs



The Cincinnati Church of Christ Choir singing at the D.A.R.E. Conference Opening Ceremony



The “In Memoriam” ceremony where DARE students lite a candle in memory of members of the International D.A.R.E. family

Our Mission

The Law Enforcement Foundation, in working partnership with local business, extends the reach and support of law enforcement's role in local communities through education and training programs that enhance the quality of life and protect the values of citizenship.

Visit www.lef-of.org to learn more about our life-changing programs.

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION
6277 Riverside Drive #2N | Dublin OH 32017 | (614) 761-9479