

# Making An Impact

## *The Law Enforcement Foundation Mid-Year Report 2015*



### Building Positive Relationships

Cleveland, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Ferguson---today many of our communities are facing challenges, and the relationship between citizens and police is often strained. As all of you know, the Law Enforcement Foundation (LEF) is an educating entity. We exist to train police officers and the community. The recent examples of community strife caused me to reflect on just how valuable our programs are.

Perceptions of law enforcement can come early in life. One of the great benefits of many of our programs is the fact our training results in natural interaction between police and our communities. The D.A.R.E. program is an excellent example. As you may know, LEF is the only organization in Ohio that trains D.A.R.E. officers. The stated vision of the program is to "respect others and choose to lead lives free from violence, substance abuse, and other dangerous behaviors". However, D.A.R.E. provides an additional benefit by introducing fifth and six graders to the Law Enforcement in a friendly, supportive and safe environment. Those students who have gone through training still remember their D.A.R.E. officer, but equally important, they have formed a positive view of law enforcement. Creating a positive perception of police at an early age is essential.



Joel Brown, CPCU, AIS

I've cited just two of our programs that work to tie our communities and law enforcement together. But it's fair to say all of our police training programs have a strong focus on dealing with citizens in a respectful and compassionate manner.

The Law Enforcement Foundation is a charity and our continued training is only possible due to the support of contributors, sponsors and partners. The demand for our training programs continues to grow which speaks to the value and quality of the education we offer. Thank-you for your support and please consider additional support for the Law Enforcement Foundation as we continue to work diligently to "take care of our communities".

### A Word from Our New President

As I begin my year as president, I am committed to continuing the fine traditions set forth by both the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Law Enforcement Foundation. We will continue to bring the best quality educational product possible through the STEP, PELC and CLEE programs.

Ohio is one of the few states that has such a progressive management program for law enforcement command and executives. The LEF has created a premiere program that is often copied but never duplicated. Ohio law enforcement is indeed fortunate to have such a quality program right here at their doorstep.

As a graduate of both the PELC and CLEE programs I can tell you first hand that these programs have given me more useful information and insight than any other program I have attended. I have committed our agency to sending all of our supervisors through the STEP and PELC programs and highly encourage all upper command officer to attend CLEE once they meet the eligibility requirements.

Recent events in our society illustrate the fact that programs such as STEP, PELC and CLEE are needed more than ever to reinforce the high quality standards, ethics, and commitment that the Law Enforcement Foundation was built on.

I want to personally thank the members, businesses, and individuals that have been so generous with their time, talents, and finances which have help build one of the finest law enforcement training programs in our nation. Thank you in advance for your continued support and with it, I am confident that we are moving Ohio law enforcement in the right direction.



Wauseon PD Chief Keith Torbet, CLEE

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## CLEE Students Impact Police Departments

With Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE) class XX currently in session, and a recent group of February 2015 graduates from CLEE XIX, there are officers in Ohio like Sgt. Todd Zieja with the Medina Township Police that are putting their knowledge into practice. "CLEE is an intense course that challenges you to think and evaluate your agency," Sgt. Zieja states. "It was an opportunity to interact with officers from across the state, and introduced me to information that will assist in my career development."

Through rigorous coursework, research, and presentations, each student was exposed to new concepts intended to open the minds of every student. "I made great strides in my research and writing abilities," said Sgt. Todd Flynn. "Through CLEE I became more confident both personally and professionally, and returned to my department with a renewed appreciation for my chosen profession."

CLEE students and graduates have made the commitment to improve their leadership abilities and grow professionally. All over the state, officers are putting into practice the concepts and principles that will make a lasting impression in Ohio. An impression has also been made on each student and graduate, according to Sgt. Zieja. "CLEE was extremely beneficial and I would highly recommend it to executives looking for challenging, new ideas."



*"We were challenged and introduced to new ideas and concepts that have allowed us to make positive changes in our department." -Sgt. Todd Zieja, CLEE XIX*



Zumyah Thorpe, age 12, Top D.A.R.E. Report Winner 2015

"Zumyah is a light, simply a joy to be around. She is a kind girl who never complains, despite all of her losses and difficult days. She strives to be the best that she can, no matter what her circumstances are."

-Officer Joann Felton  
Solon Police Dept.

## Survival With A Smile

*One drunk driver has made all of the difference in the lives of Zumyah Thorpe and her family.* On March 28, 2013, the car driven by Zumyah's mother, Maria, was struck by the truck of a drunk driver who had run a red light. Four of Zumyah's family members were killed including her mother who was 6 months pregnant, and two of Zumyah's younger sisters. 12 year old Zumyah and her 13 year old sister, Zulaka, were the only survivors, although Zumyah nearly died on the scene. She suffered severe trauma to her head and remained in a coma for 50 days.

Not only did Zumyah survive, but she was able to relearn how to speak, walk, and eat. There were hopes that her vision would be restored, but recently she was informed that her vision will never return. Once again, Zumyah has taken the information in stride.

It was this year that Zumyah began taking D.A.R.E. classes taught by Solon Police Officer Joann Felton. Zumyah took to the class immediately, becoming an advocate for the program and sharing her own personal tragedy. Zumyah quickly became an inspiration to her classmates and Officer Felton. "She made me work harder," Officer Felton said. "Zumyah made me appreciate my own family more each day, and I was lucky to have her as a student."

As D.A.R.E. classes came to a close, the final report was due. Although Zumyah was not expected to complete the report due to her disabilities, she not only completed the assignment but she was one of the first to turn it in. In this report, Zumyah shared how one drunk driver changed her life and took the lives of her family members. She also discussed the importance of the D.A.R.E. program and the negative effects of drinking and driving. Despite the trials, tribulations, and loss that Zumyah has endured, she maintains a positive attitude. She concluded her report simply with the statement "I just want to be the best that I can be."

It was at the D.A.R.E. 6th grade graduation that Zumyah was named the 2015 Top D.A.R.E. Report Winner, receiving a medal and a plaque. She was also asked to be a keynote speaker at the D.A.R.E. International Conference in New Orleans at the beginning of August, where she will share her story.

Unfortunately, Zumyah is one of many to have their lives affected by drivers under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The D.A.R.E. program aims to change this through education and awareness beginning at a young age.

## Stepping Up for Ohio

The Law Enforcement Foundation (LEF), the charitable arm of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) presents the Friend of the Foundation awards annually, to those individuals and/or organizations who show exemplary service and support to the Law Enforcement Foundation. These Friends of the Foundation have gone above and beyond in order to further our mission and improve communities all over the state of Ohio. This year the Friends of the Foundation award recipients were John Born and the Department of Public Safety, American Electric Power (AEP), and our very own Kari Parsons of the Ohio School Resource Officers Association (OSROA).

A Friend of the Foundation award was presented to the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and Director John Born for their collective support of the LEF and its programs. Prior to being named Director of ODPS, Director Born was an instructor for two programs in the LEF's Police Executive Leadership and Management Training Series. In 2014, a grant was approved to by ODPS to fund our Master's level program, the Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE). In addition, the Ohio State Highway Patrol is providing the class accommodations at the Highway Patrol Academy. This has made all the difference to Ohio officers that would have otherwise been unable to afford to participate in the CLEE program.

Since 1996 AEP has supported the LEF through contributions totaling over \$64,000, as well as leaders who have contributed both their time and efforts toward successful central Ohio fundraising campaigns. In addition, AEP Ohio Foundation has provided scholarships for officers to attend the Supervisors Training and Education Program who would not have otherwise been able to attend. AEP cares about the health and safety of its customers, employees, and the general public. They support philanthropy, diversity, education, and strive to build relationships in the communities they serve.

Kari Parsons began working for the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police in 2001. In 2008, Kari was named the D.A.R.E. Training Director for the LEF as well as the Executive Director of the D.A.R.E. Association of Ohio. Kari has been a strong advocate for the D.A.R.E. program, supporting the program through a difficult economy. Kari has worked with D.A.R.E. America to ensure continued state support, as well as with the Attorney General's office to assist in coordinating the grants for local D.A.R.E. programs. Due to family commitments Kari stepped down as D.A.R.E. Director in 2014, but continues to represent the program at meetings throughout the state. She is the Conference Director for the combined D.A.R.E./School Resource Officers Association Conference each year.

Partnerships such as the these with the Ohio Department of Public Safety, AEP, and Kari Parsons, are invaluable to the LEF. It is through the time, efforts, and resources of people and groups such as these, that we are able to continue our mission of creating strong, safe communities for all of Ohio's citizens.



(L) Kari Parsons, Executive Director, OSROA & (R) Joel Brown, Board Chair



(L) John Born, Dept. of Public Safety & (R) Joel Brown, Board Chair



(L) Joel Brown, Board Chair & (R) Stan Partlow, Director of Security, AEP

“AEP is a citizen of each community they serve and takes an active part in its affairs. We prosper only as the community prospers; so we help it thrive in every way we can.”

-AEP President George Tidd  
1934

## A Glance at 2015

