



Warren C. Evans
Sheriff

News Release

Sheriff Contact: John Roach: 313-224-0615
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Sheriff's Office garners 3 national awards

◆ *National Assoc. of Counties recognizes effective & innovative programs*

Three signature programs created by the Wayne County Sheriff's Office have received national recognition for their effectiveness and innovation, Sheriff Warren C. Evans announced today.

The Sheriff's Spot Check Unit, Missing & Exploited Children's Task Force and Project Fresh Start all were awarded Achievement Awards by the National Association of Counties (NACo) at its summer conference on July 15th in Roanoke, VA.

"Each of these recognized programs provides a unique and critical service to the citizens of Wayne County that previously had not been offered," Evans said. "It is gratifying to have not one, but three, of our best programs receive this kind of national recognition. Evans pointed out that all three of the programs were created thanks to grants the Sheriff's Office obtained from the Byrne Memorial Fund through Governor Jennifer Granholm's office. They are:

- The Missing and Exploited Children's Task Force assists in the recovery of children who are reported lost, or in many cases, runaways. Quick action on the part of Sheriff's Deputies and Detroit Police Officers assigned to this team is critical in preventing these children from being exploited by adults for illicit purposes. Since the MEC Task Force was established nearly three years ago, it has successfully recovered 465 missing children and endangered runaways.
- The SPOTCHECK unit works in conjunction with Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Parole Agents in conducting random home / compliance checks of active parolees and probationers. This approach is designed to make sure these individuals understand that even though they have been entrusted with the privilege of remaining in the community as opposed to jail or prison, they are still under watchful eyes.

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Since the Spot Check unit was created, officers have conducted nearly 10,000 unannounced home checks. During those home checks, violations were found that have resulted in the arrests of 244 parolees or probationers, more than 100 of which ended up going back to prison, and the confiscation of more than 40 guns. "It is safe to say that many crimes were prevented because of the work of these officers," Evans said.

- Project Fresh Start is a ground breaking treatment and education program for habitual prostitutes that combines correctional and law enforcement aspects, drug treatment, personal counseling, medical treatment and life skills coaching to give them the stability, confidence and tools they need to be able to successfully re-enter society. Another collaborative effort, Project Fresh Start partners include the Sheriff's Office, 36th District Court and the Detroit Public Health Department Bureau of Substance Abuse, as well as assistance from the Detroit Police Department. Thus far, 26 women have successfully completed the demanding 18- to 24-month program and have begun their new lives.

Evans said that he is proud of the work being done through these programs and that he is always looking new ways to solve old problems.

"The Sheriff's Office will continue to work aggressively to obtain grants and contracts to develop new specialized services," Evans said. "By doing so, we are able to provide taxpayers with a higher level of service, without reaching into the county's general fund."

Evans and representatives from each of the three recognized programs received the awards at the National Association of Counties' Annual Conference in Richmond, VA on July 15th.