



County of Milwaukee
Office of the Sheriff

David A. Clarke, Jr.
Sheriff

February 10, 2009

Dear Milwaukee County Educators and Librarians:

The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) remains dedicated to providing a safe environment for our citizenry and for those visiting and traveling through Milwaukee County. In order to accomplish this task, we are proud to work in partnership with the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), and many southeastern Wisconsin commerce and civic groups to effect changes and implement new initiatives under the umbrella of "public safety." While government entities have a vital role in both enforcement and as subject matter experts, we are not so brazen as to believe that we might achieve a wide scale regional outcome purely through our efforts alone. While the majority of expressway policing and safety in Milwaukee County rightly falls onto the shoulders of the MCSO, we find that our cooperative relationships are invaluable in impacting issues that cut across governmental boundaries.

In June 2008, the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office leapt at the chance to join both the State of Wisconsin Chief's of Police Association and the Badger State Sheriff's Association in endorsing an exciting new program, "B.A.C.K Packets," created by a local non-profit organization, "With Wings and a Halo – R.E.A.C.H a Child." This program serves to place donated new children's books, covering a span of ages from toddler to early teen, into the hands of local law enforcement officers for use in critical situations (like an auto accident, house fire, natural disaster or domestic dispute) where children are present. This group has provided my deputies with the gift of age-appropriate books, in brightly-colored red backpacks, for distribution to children to help alleviate some of the stress inherent in circumstances that are beyond the child's control. It has already proven to be an extremely powerful tool for our deputies at the scene of rollover crashes. While there is no manual for dealing with children at a traumatic scene, we are pleased to endorse this program because *it works*.

R.E.A.C.H a Child is starting a fund-raising event called *Rock-N-Read* where kids will form teams, recruit sponsors, and occupy a rocking chair and read for a pre-determined amount of time. The funding raised through this event will continue to fund the "B.A.C.K Packets" program that I have described. If you are interested in considering hosting a *Rock-N-Read* event at your school or library, please do not hesitate to learn more about the program by visiting www.withwingsandahalo, or contacting the group directly at 1.866.992.6324.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David A. Clarke Jr." in a cursive style.

David A. Clarke Jr., Sheriff
Milwaukee County

Service to the Community Since 1835
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