

## **“Operation Vests for Valor” fundraiser to raise funds for CPD, SPD SWAT team vests**

Written by Administrator

Wednesday, 08 April 2009 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 08 April 2009 13:33

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During the evening hours of Thursday, February 19, many local officers received the call that they all dread. Two of their own had been shot and the suspect was still on the loose.

The two injured, Jeffersonville Police Department Cpl. Dan Lawhorn and Officer Keith Broady, are now home from a long hospital stay and are still receiving outpatient therapy. Lawhorn was shot in the leg while Broady sustained a gunshot wound to his chest area above the protection of his vest during the shooting at Motel 6.

The incident inspired the “Operation Vest for Valor” fundraiser.

Preferred Automotive owner, Troy French, is friends with Broady’s brother, Darin, and was inspired to reach out to the community and create fundraisers so vests may be purchased.

The mission of the Operation Vests for Valor is to generate funds to purchase 16 Delta Five™ modular tactical body armor vests to distribute to Charlestown and Sellersburg SWAT team police officers. The Delta Five™ vest offers a supreme system combining coverage, mobility and configurability for tactical units. Preferred Automotive is the primary sponsor of the event starting the effort to make a donation and challenge other area businesses.

The vests will help protect Charlestown and Sellersburg Police Officers on the SWAT teams with the new Delta Five™ vests through a series of fundraisers. These vests are very costly and at the present time the officers are not equipped with ballistic vests for tactical operations.

The goal of Operation Vests for Valor is to raise the \$30,000 needed to purchase the 16 Delta Five™ vests through a series of separate fundraisers including a school competition, car wash and road block.

### **School Competition**

The School Competition for Operation Vests for Valor will be held now through April 30. Charlestown and Silver Creek elementary, middle, junior high and high schools including grades 1-12 will compete to see which student can raise the most money for the program.

### **Car Washes**

Preferred Automotive located at 7803 State Road 311 in Sellersburg, will sponsor a car wash fundraiser for the Operation Vests for Valor with the help of the Silver Creek cheerleaders and other volunteers to raise money. The car washes will be held on Saturday, April 4 and Saturday, April 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Twenty five percent of the funds raised will be donated to the Silver Creek cheerleaders for their effort in the event and 75 percent will go to the campaign. The suggested donation is \$10 or more.

### **Basketball Playoff with the SWAT Team**

A basketball playoff with the SWAT team will be held on Thursday, April 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. The game will be held at Charlestown High School where either schools will have players assigned to play a game of basketball against the SWAT team.

The admission fee will be \$3 and \$2 raffle tickets will be sold for a chance to throw a whipped cream pie at the officers at the end of the basketball game. All money from the raffle tickets and admission sales will go toward the Operation Vests for Valor program.

### **Road Blocks**

Road blocks will be held in Charlestown and Sellersburg to also help raise funds for the vests. The road blocks will be held at the intersection of Highway 3 (Market Street) and State Road 403 in Charlestown and Highway 60 and 311 in Sellersburg on Sunday, April 12. The road blocks will be held from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

### **Donations**

Donations for the Operation Vests for Valor may also be made. You may drop off a donation at The New Washington State Bank, earmarked “Vests for Valor” in the Shop With A Cop

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Net proceeds will go toward the Vests for Valor public service campaign.

Media partners for the Operation Vests for Valor campaign are Clear Channel Radio (WAMZ, WHAS-AM, WQMF, WTFX, WLUE, WKRD-AM and WZKF) and The Leader.

Sponsors for the event are Preferred Automotive, The New Washington State Bank, Silver Creek Cheerleading Team, Silver Creek Schools (grades 1-12), Charlestown Schools (grades 1-12) and The Leader.

The final collection will be on Tuesday, April 28. Money will be collected from each school and the student who collects the most will be rewarded with station prizes. Winning students will also appear in The Leader as their school's winner and on a billboard with the officers.