

Ft. Pierce Police Department

News Release

06/08/09



R. Sean Baldwin

Chief of Police

920 S. U.S. #1

Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

Police officers build lasting relationships as mentors

FORT PIERCE – For a group of Fort Pierce Police officers mentoring students at Garden City Elementary Schools is not about doing homework, but more about building relationships.

On Wednesday, the mentors and mentees will meet for the last time in a farewell gathering as the school year nears its end. By all accounts, the relationships that have been developed will be lasting ones.

During the past school year, 11 members of the Community Response Bureau have spent an hour once a week doing a fun activity or just talking with a child who could use a friend. The department's effort is in partnership with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties, Inc. school-based mentoring program.

As part of the program, mentors were asked to commit one year or a full school year, one hour per week. Because developing a friendship with a child and creating a positive influence takes time, the success of this interaction depended on consistent contact and the enjoyment of the activities together, rather than on the length of each visit.

Police Chief R. Sean Baldwin encouraged department personnel to give of their time during to volunteer because this program and its goals help the department accomplish its mission of "Protecting the Community We Serve."

The following individuals have served as mentors: Sergeant Tony Hurtado, Traffic Officer Scott Ceckanowicz, Master Officer James Cozine, Officer Dani Dreizehnter, Officer Ami Gibbons, Officer Cheryl Glenn-Reed, Officer Martin Ortiz, Officer Ludmila Quintao, Officer Heather Scarborough, Master Officer Paul Pearson and Secretary LuAnn Lewis.

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