



VOL 5: ISSUE 10



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

This month, I was honored to speak at the Special Olympics of Texas (SOTX) Breakfast With Champions. My heart was filled with joy as each one of the Special Olympic athletes walked in. Memories of the past flooded back and I was greatly moved by the experience.

In 1979, I was a 21-year-old country girl, who worked at a bank in a rural area. I was married and had a pretty normal life. In June of 1979, my son Cody was born, and my life changed drastically. At birth, Cody went without oxygen for 45 minutes before being resuscitated. He spent the first six weeks of his life in the neonatal unit. When I brought him home, I knew my life would never be the same. I remember the fear I felt. I had a challenge that was so much bigger than my ability.

I had so many questions, and more doubt than courage. I was focused on what Cody could not and would not do. Little did I know that this gift, my beautiful son, would teach me courage, commitment, and tenacity in ways only he could.

Cody was non-verbal, but he was such an amazing listener. As I poured out my thoughts and fears, he demonstrated courage. I watched Cody valiantly face daily challenges. His courage was contagious! His example showed me there was nothing I couldn't do. Those who know me have heard me say many, many times, "Challenges are opportunities to demonstrate what you're made of."



I became a night dispatcher so I could take care of Cody during the day, which started my career in Law Enforcement. Inspired and motivated by him, I faced my fears and pursued this new career path. I can honestly say, if not for Cody, I would not be where I am today.

My career in law enforcement has allowed me to participate in the SOTX Tip-A-Cop events, the Law Enforcement Torch Run and be a judge in the Miss Sweetheart Pageant. I've enjoyed many wonderful opportunities to hang out with Special Olympic athletes over the years. In this issue, you can read more about our agency's involvement with these amazing athletes. To find out more about how you can support SOTX, please click on the icon button below.



K-9s WORKING HARD



Your TCSO K-9s get the job done. K-9 Shadow assisted an agency at the airport and detected 18 pounds of marijuana in luggage. The next day, he alerted on a vehicle that was carrying 558 grams of cocaine, 330 grams of meth, 100 grams of Fentanyl and 134 grams of marijuana. K-9s Roki and Shadow assisted TCSO SWAT in the apprehension of a murder suspect. Those are very good boys!



The Travis County Grand Jury indicted suspects in a homicide case investigated by TCSO detectives. Ronald Falkquay was indicted for Murder and Tampering with Evidence and Sista Fabian was indicted for Tampering with Evidence in the homicide of Gerson Eleazar Garcia-Mejia, outside the Dessau Mini Mart, July 18, 2021.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



On the first Tuesday in October, Texas residents celebrate National Night Out. This annual event is a great way to build relationships between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. It was so nice to visit safely with everyone; thanks to all the HOAs and neighborhood associations for inviting us to their block parties.

For more information on creating a Neighborhood Watch program in your community, please contact our Community Outreach Unit.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT



On the evening of October 30th, TCSO hosted our inaugural Trunk-or-Treat; as a COVID safety precaution, this was a drive-thru event. We had approximately 10 units from across our agency "bootifully" decorated, competing for the grand trophy of "Trunk-or-Treat Champion" which was awarded to the SWAT team. We would also like to thank our community partner H-E-B at Mueller for their support and for joining us that evening. It was a SPOOKTACULAR event!



Special Olympics Texas

TCSO has a long history as a partner with the Special Olympics of Texas (SOTX). It is with great pride that we support the Law Enforcement Torch Run which is the largest grassroots fundraiser for the Special Olympics. Officers throughout the world carry the "Flame of Hope" through the streets of their communities and deliver it to their local, state, national or world Special Olympics Games.

Over the years, we've participated in many fundraising events to include Tip-A-Cop, Fire Truck Pull Challenge, and Polar Plunge. The SOTX community has invited us into their family, and it is a bond TCSO will continue to honor with full hearts!



Each month, TCSO recognizes Breast Cancer Awareness that will hopefully find a cure for this terrible disease.

This year, our Correctional Officer Basic Recruit Academy cadets joined Sheriff Hernandez, Chief Johnson, and Major Peña for a photo to show their support. Sheriff Hernandez presented a proclamation to the Travis County Commissioners Court on October 12th to encourage public awareness.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Our DO SOMETHING campaign is a reminder that we all have a role to play and even if you're not a victim, there are warning signs and you can make a difference in the life of someone who needs help.

In support of the awareness month, TCSO was featured in a KVUE series about domestic violence. The series followed the steps taken to assist victims from the 911 call to the courtroom. Additionally, our Victim Services Unit hosted a "Purple Brunch" to show appreciation for all the TCSO staff and community partners who work tirelessly to support survivors.



BROWN SANTA



Travis County Sheriff's Brown Santa program is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization sponsored by TCSO. The program provides assistance with gifts and food during the holiday season to families and elderly citizens in Travis County primarily living outside the geographic city limits of Austin. All of this is possible with donations and support from local merchants and community members. For more information on how to apply, volunteer or to make a donation, please visit Brown Santa.



Congratulations!

- Administration & Support Bureau:** Psychologist Cressida Kwolek
- Corrections Bureau:** Senior Corrections Officer Christopher Friar
- Law Enforcement Bureau:** Central Command | Detective Javier Hernandez, East Command | Deputy Ian M'Garrahan, West Command | Senior Deputy Mark Kessler