



WPD NEWS

Wichita Police Department
455 N. Main Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 268-4340 FAX (316) 268-4566
www.wichita.gov

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CONTACT: Gordon Bassham
316-268-4340

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**** Media Advisory ****

Big Brothers Big Sisters “Battle of the Badges 2007”

On Saturday, February 24, nearly one hundred police officers, fire fighters and McConnell security forces will converge on Thunderbird Lanes.

They will be taking part in the annual Cops For Kids’ Bowl For Kids’ Sake event. This year, these “badges” will battle each other at the bowling lanes to help kids who need mentors.

The Cops for Kids program was developed eleven years ago in honor of fallen Sheriff’s Deputy Kevin Easter.

“We still vividly remember the details of a 14-year-old runaway killing Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Deputy Kevin Easter on January 8, 1996. However, from his tragic death has evolved an innovative program linking area law enforcement and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sedgwick County,” said Dawn DeArmond, President and CEO Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters.

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“With the outstanding participation and involvement of area law enforcement, this program has continued to grow, serving hundreds of at-risk youth each year. In addition, this program is used as a model by many Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies across Kansas and the United States,” said DeArmond..

Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters served more than 6,000 children in 2006. More than 2,400 of them were in Sedgwick County.

However, there are still more than 3,000 children waiting for a mentor statewide. Funds raised from this “Battle of the Badges” bowling event will go to help find these children caring mentors.

Koch Industries, Inc. got the ball rolling this year with a record-breaking \$150,000 donation to the kids’ campaign. The gift represents the largest single donation ever made to the fundraising campaign.

Other event sponsors include Vess Energy Group, Cessna, PrintMaster, and the Sedgwick County Bowling Proprietors Association

For more information on the Cops For Kids’ program, go to www.ksbbbs.org or call 316-263-3300.