

# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## RELEASE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



*Larry Campbell, Sheriff*

Leon County Sheriff's Office  
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### LCSO Citizen's Academy Alumni Names Deputies of the Year

The Leon County Sheriff's Office Citizen's Academy Alumni has announced the 2011 Deputies of the Year. The awards were presented recently at the 24<sup>th</sup> Citizen's Academy graduation banquet. The Leon County Sheriff's Office and the Citizen's Academy Alumni would like to congratulate and recognize them both.

For Community Involvement and going above and beyond the scope of her assigned duties, Deputy Jessica Ikner was selected as Deputy Sheriff of the Year.

In mid-December 2010, Tallahassee was experiencing many 20 degree mornings, with freezing temperatures lasting throughout the day. Deputy Ikner noticed some of the children arriving at school without coats. One particular first grader was only wearing a t-shirt and shorts. Deputy Ikner soon learned that no surplus of clothing was available at either of her assigned schools. Deputy Ikner purchased clothing for the first grader with her own money and decided to create a clothing bank to accommodate the needs of the children in emergency situations.

One telephone call to her mother and a few emails sent to concerned friends in different agencies throughout the local community prompted responses from hundreds of people. The following day, Deputy Ikner met with her mother to pick up some children's clothing and was amazed to find hundreds of pants, shirts, sweaters and jackets waiting for her. She filled up her entire patrol car with clothing. The next day she arrived at Bond Elementary School and discovered many more donations continuing to arrive. The community response was overwhelming and the volume of clothing collected was enough to adequately accommodate three schools; Bond Elementary, Oakridge Elementary and Woodville Elementary.

Deputy Ikner's actions went well beyond the scope of her assigned duties. She focused on the needs of the children and initiated a "pay it forward" attitude that will have a lasting effect on hundreds of underprivileged children and their families.

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For Heroism, the Citizen's Academy Alumni selected Sergeant David Graham as Deputy Sheriff of the Year.

On May 31, 2010 the Leon County Sheriff's Office responded to check on the welfare of Jerome Ferrier at 2115 Owens Street, apartment #1. Ferrier had made threatening and irrational statements to his girlfriend. Sgt. Graham and other deputies retrieved a key from the apartment manager after Ferrier did not respond to repeated attempts to contact him. At 11:00 a.m. Sgt. Graham and Deputy Kevin Shea unlock the door and opened it. They were immediately met with a hail of bullets, as Ferrier had been laying in wait. When the shots began, Deputy Shea was in the direct line of fire. Realizing this, Sgt. Graham pulled Shea away from the door, almost certainly saving him from being shot. During the firefight Lt. Barry Blackburn was shot in the right shoulder. Moments later, during the ensuing officer rescue, Sgt. Graham fired at Ferrier and observed him fall to the floor in retreat. The rescue was completed and Lt. Blackburn was evacuated for treatment.

There were many law enforcement officers involved in the Owens Street incident. Several exchanged gunfire with Ferrier and assisted in the rescue of Lt. Blackburn, but Sgt. Graham's clear thinking and decision making while under fire enabled him to manage both the crisis and the personnel that contained it. This in turn minimized additional injury to law enforcement on scene and was instrumental in the apprehension of the armed and dangerous suspect.

Sheriff Larry Campbell stated, "Congratulations to these two outstanding employees. Jessica and David are both truly assets, not only at the Leon County Sheriff's Office, but more importantly as members of our community."



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