

## **Angels on Patrol: front-line officers make a difference**

In 2009, Lt. Jacqui MacConnell established the non-profit organization Angels on Patrol to assist families identified by on-duty Phoenix police officers responding to a crisis. Officers have the ability to assist families with immediate needs, such as a ride to the hospital for non-life-threatening emergencies. But generally, that's where a police officer's involvement with the family ends.

Angels on Patrol allows an officer to assist beyond the initial response. When an officer comes in contact with a family who needs long-term assistance, the officer can fill out an Angels on Patrol family application form, which is submitted to Lt. MacConnell. After reviewing the request, Lt. MacConnell will conduct a follow-up meeting with the officer and the family. Finally, the application is presented to the Angels on Patrol board for final review. If approved, the family can expect Angels on Patrol to assist with the request. Officers can recommend items such as clothing, tutoring, or other personal needs. The organization may also assist with medical needs. The nonprofit organization does not provide cash assistance.

Lt. MacConnell was one of the responding officers who found two five-year-old twins kept in cages in 2003. The children were unable to speak and were labeled feral. The horrific scene left an impression upon her and she decided to find a way to assist children beyond the immediate response. This was the catalyst for Angels on Patrol, which allows officers the chance to assist a family beyond the immediate response.

"It is surreal to see my dream become a reality and it is humbling to have so much support for Angels on Patrol. The board and I are very excited to begin helping children and families," says Lt. MacConnell. As of June 2010, Angels on Patrol has begun accepting Family Application Forms and has received two.

The foundation would not be able to flourish without support from the community. Lt. MacConnell has set up a web site, [www.angelsonpatrol.com](http://www.angelsonpatrol.com), where volunteers can donate money or needed items. An example on the Angels on Patrol web site states, "A young girl is continuously abused by her parents and officers respond to her home. Officers interview the girl and she is taken from her home for her safety. She has no pajamas, under garments, tooth paste, tooth brush, back pack, nothing to call her own. The officer can call Angels on Patrol to assist with the expenses." Whether it is a

pair of ballet slippers for an aspiring dancer, or a teddy bear for a subtle comfort, it doesn't take much to be an angel.