



CANYON COUNTY

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December 8, 2016

National Sheriff's Association
Attn: Mr. Tim Woods
1450 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: 2017 NSA Crime Victim Services Award

Dear Mr. Woods,

It is my distinct pleasure to nominate the Canyon County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Kieran Donahue for the 2017 National Sheriff's Association Crime Victim Services Award. The Canyon County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) is a full service law enforcement agency responsible for a jurisdiction of over 600 square miles in Southwestern Idaho. CCSO provides all aspects of law enforcement to Idaho's second most populated county, including; patrol, investigations, jail services, civil processing, full-service forensic crime lab, disaster services, driver's licensing, concealed weapons permit, emergency dispatching, marine patrol and victim/witness services. The Sheriff's Office has been under the leadership of Sheriff Donahue since January 2013.

There are two reasons I wish to nominate CCSO and Sheriff Donahue for the Crime Victim Services Award. The first is because the Sheriff's Office as a whole is one of the foremost leaders in the state of Idaho when it comes to assisting victims. Examples include:

- CCSO is one of only three Sheriff's Offices in Idaho that employ a Victim Witness Coordinator (VWC), whose sole responsibility is to assist victims as they recover from a criminal act. The VWC provides victims with support to empower them through the criminal justice process. This work is done through crisis intervention on scene and immediately after a violent crime. Victims are provided one on one support during all phases of recovery, and Idaho Victims' Rights are provided to all victims from crime scene, to the court room and to the parole board. This is especially true in homicide cases, domestic violence cases and other heinous crimes where the suspect has eluded law enforcement and remains a threat to the victim's family.
- CCSO launched the "Start by Believing" campaign in April 2015 in an effort to improve the public and law enforcement response and understanding of the

complex nuances of sexual assault cases. CCSO was one of the first law enforcement agencies in the nation to launch the campaign, which includes partnerships with other local law enforcement agencies. As part of the campaign, CCSO remodeled an interview room in their Criminal Investigation Division and opened the “Start by Believing” room, which is a warm, safe place where detectives, victim witness coordinators, prosecutors and victims can meet for interviews and prepare for court. The goal of the “Start by Believing” campaign is to ensure that victims feel supported during each stage of the investigation and prosecution and to express to them that law enforcement is committed to listening to their testimony and identifying the facts of the case(s) regardless of the victim’s age, gender, criminal history, etc. This past April saw two former victims of rape and domestic violence share their personal stories at the “Start by Believing” Day press conference hosted by CCSO and Sheriff Donahue, which was carried on several local news outlets, and helped highlight and personalize the importance of believing victims of sexual assault. (*See attachment A*)

<http://www.kivitv.com/news/law-enforcement-take-start-by-believing-pledge-to-end-abuse>

- Shortly after Sheriff Donahue took office in 2013, CCSO became one of the first agencies in the nation and the first Sheriff’s Office in Idaho to mandate that its deputies, command staff and dispatchers take a course from the National Strangulation Training Institute to better recognize the signs of strangulation in victims, specifically in domestic violence cases. Victims are often reluctant to speak freely during the investigation and clear physical evidence is not always apparent. The strangulation training enables officers to recognize the signs of strangulation which can assist them in developing their cases further to hold offenders accountable. (*See attachment B*)
- CCSO has had an integral role in the success of Nampa Family Justice Center (FJC), which is a partnership dedicated to ending family violence and sexual assault through prevention and response by providing comprehensive, client-centered services in a single location. The FJC houses numerous individuals and services to include law enforcement, prosecuting attorney, medical examiners, forensic interviewers for children, social services, etc. CCSO Chief Deputy Marv Dashiell is the vice-president of the FJC Advisory Board and Sheriff Donahue is the immediate past president of the Family Justice Center Foundation of Idaho, which is the fundraising arm for the Family Justice Center of Idaho.
- CCSO Dep. Doug Gately received the 2016 "You Helped Save Me Award" from Turn Up the Volume on Domestic Violence for his efforts in working with and assisting the family of Amparo Godinez-Sanchez, who was senselessly murdered by her husband during a domestic dispute in the small town of Wilder. The award is given to officers in our communities who show exemplary service to victims of domestic violence.
- CCSO Cpl. Gilbert Longoria and Dep. Robert Johnson were previous winners of the "You Helped Save Me Award" in 2015 for their efforts in assisting victims and survivors of domestic violence in our local communities.
- CCSO participates each year in October in the promotion of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. CCSO employees take part in community events

throughout the month to raise awareness about the issue and assist the victims and survivors of domestic violence.

- CCSO's annual Christmas Shop With A Cop and Back To School Shop With A Cop programs have grown tremendously over the past two years. The program pairs CCSO deputies and Command Staff with kids and families in the community who need some assistance during both the holiday season and back to school time. The Christmas Shop With A Cop event was featured on a local NBC news (KTVB Channel 7) program called "7's Hero" and the support it generated has allowed the program to continue to expand. CCSO now serves over 100 kids and families per year between both Shop With A Cop programs. Both events give CCSO employees a chance to give back to the people they serve and also help build strong, lasting relationships between CCSO and the community.
- Sheriff Donahue started the Canyon County Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony in Canyon County after he took office in 2013. The annual event pays tribute to Idaho's peace officers who were killed in the line of duty and is attended by numerous executive law enforcement officials, legislative members and business leaders throughout the region.
- CCSO's chaplain is Reverend Bill Roscoe, who is also the President and CEO of Boise Rescue Mission Ministries. CCSO works hand in hand with Rev. Roscoe and the Rescue Mission to assist victims and the less fortunate get back on their feet. CCSO also works closely with the newly established Women and Children's center in Nampa which assists victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and homelessness.

The second reason I want to nominate CCSO for the 2017 Crime Victim Services Award is due to Sheriff Kieran Donahue's work on behalf of his non-profit foundation, the K. Donahue Foundation, better known as the Man Up Crusade. The Man Up Crusade, which was founded and launched by Sheriff Donahue and his wife, Jeanie, in 2012, is dedicated to establishing, directing and promoting a public awareness campaign on the issues related to domestic violence and the secondary and tertiary affects domestic violence has on victims (male or female), children and our society as a whole. The Man Up Crusade has partnered with the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) and Professional Bull Riders, Inc. (PBR) to bring Purple Night to rodeos, bull ridings and county and state fairs throughout the United States. The events encourage everyone – from fans and cowboys to stock contractors – to wear purple during these events in solidarity to bring awareness to the issue of domestic violence. Across the nation, the purple ribbon has been adopted to show support for victims and advocates and to honor those who have lost their lives at the hands of someone they once loved. It is the goal of the Man Up Crusade to make the color purple recognized for domestic violence in a way the color pink is recognized for breast cancer. (*See attachment C*)

The Man Up Crusade has received endorsements from the National Sheriff's Association, the Western States Sheriff's Association, Southwest Border Sheriff's Coalition, Idaho Sheriff's Association and the Sheriff's Association of Texas. Furthermore, this past March the Western States Sheriff's Association named Sheriff Donahue as their Sheriff of the Year in large part due to his work on behalf of the Man Up Crusade. In making the announcement, Western States Sheriff's Association President and National Sheriff's Association President (2015-2016) Danny Glick (Laramie Co., WY) stated, "the selection this year was an easy one. Even though there are many outstanding Sheriffs in the western states, Sheriff Donahue's efforts to combat the plague

of domestic violence is not only the right thing for law enforcement, but more importantly, the right thing for people everywhere.” (See attachment D)

As of the end of 2016, the Man Up Crusade and their Purple Night events have expanded to eleven states throughout the country with over 20 separate events. Some of these partnering events and organizations include the famous Cheyenne Frontier Days, the California Rodeo Salinas and the prestigious Reno Rodeo. Through their program, the Man Up Crusade promotes awareness of the issue and helps generate funds to local charities involving domestic violence victims in communities throughout the United States and the world. Nationally recognized brands Wrangler and Montana Silversmiths are national sponsors of the Man Up Crusade and assist in the efforts to create an awareness and help break the cycle of domestic violence. And just recently, Verizon’s Hope Line has entered a partnership with the Man Up Crusade to further assist victims of domestic violence. In the last three years, the Man Up Crusade has donated nearly \$90,000 to domestic violence shelters and victim services, including more than \$17,000 right here in Canyon County. For additional information on the Man Up Crusade, please visit www.manupcrusade.com or www.facebook.com/ManUpCrusade.

In summary, I believe CCSO under the leadership of Sheriff Donahue has gone above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to assisting the victims of violent crimes. The efforts are far reaching – going beyond just Canyon County and into numerous states across the nation and internationally with Purple Night. I hope you can see the benefits of their hard work and recognize them as the recipient of the 2017 NSA Crime Victim Services Award.

Sincerely,

Joe Decker
Public Information Officer
Canyon County