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Photos Attached

Sheriff's Foundation gets boost from builders

PENSACOLA, Fla. (Sept. 30, 2021) This week the newly formed Escambia County Sheriff's Foundation received much needed support in the form of a substantial donation from Hanto & Clarke General Contractors. Hanto & Clarke owner Mike Clarke said programs like the Sheriff's Blazer Academy dovetail with their mission of building stronger communities. A little league coach who loves the sport and mentoring young men, Clarke said the connection was a natural.

"We've been looking to get engaged in community-focused programs where we could actively give back," said Clarke. When I was approached about serving on the board for the Sheriff's Foundation, I knew this was a place we could plug in. And when the Blazer Academy was formed, I knew we had made the right decision. We're building young boys to young men through this outstanding mentoring program."

The goal of the Blazer Academy was to immerse young men and women ages 13 – 15 in an environment that provides mentoring and instruction on many topics such as courtesy, responsibility, empowerment, and respect. Sheriff Chip Simmons says gifts like these are what makes programs like the Academy possible.

"To see how this first class of young men in the program grew, learned about themselves and learned how to be a powerful influence in our communities, makes all of the effort worth it," said Simmons. "This partnership with Hanto & Clarke means we can continue with this program and others like it that lift our communities up."

The Sheriff's Foundation was launched in June 2021 with a mission to honor and support the brave heroes of the Escambia County Sheriff's Office while promoting increased community engagement.

Brian Williams, president of the Foundation, is encouraged with the support he is seeing in the community.

"The response from the community has been overwhelming," said Williams. "Awareness of The Blazer Academy has been a catalyst for support for the Sheriff's Foundation — the generosity of our community never ceases to amaze me."

Those wanting to support programs like The Blazer Academy through the Escambia County Sheriff's Foundation can visit EscambiaCSF.org.

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About Hanto and Clarke: Located in Pensacola, Florida, Don Hanto and brothers Mike and Stephen Clarke founded Hanto & Clarke General Contractors with the goal of becoming the commercial contractor of choice in Northwest Florida. As licensed commercial contractors, our leadership has more than 75 years of combined experience performing both new construction and renovation projects within the commercial, financial, industrial, institutional, hospitality, medical, government and educational markets.

Media Contact: Jeff Rogers, Buzz Marketing – 850-572-5511



Jeff Rogers
Chief Buzz Officer
850-572-5511
Jeff@hirebuzzmarketing.com



Jeff Rogers
Creative Strategist



Chief Deputy Tommi Lyter with Blazer Academy member.



Sheriff Chip Simmons with Blazer Academy member.





