



## VANDERBURGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

# NEWS RELEASE

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### Awards

The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office was recognized for their outstanding efforts in traffic safety at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Operation Pullover Awards banquet held in Carmel Indiana on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Over 260 law enforcement agencies participate in various Operation Pullover enforcement efforts in Indiana. Operation Pullover efforts are supported by funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) specifically to conduct traffic safety enforcement.

The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office received the Project L.O.V.E. (Law Officer Voucher & Enforcement) **Best in State** for dedication to protecting Hoosier children. Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Deputies gave out the largest number of child restraint seats to families where parents/caregivers had low incomes and or had seats that were deemed unsafe.

Deputies met with parents and not only provided the safety seats to them but instructed them on how to safely install them into their vehicles. They also taught them how to properly place the infants/children into the safety seats.

The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office conducts safety seat inspections by certified deputy sheriffs at the Sheriff's Command Post by appointment. Additionally, we have partnered with Lefler's Collision Center to conduct child safety seat inspections and set up mobile stations around the community throughout the year.

Chief Deputy David Wedding, who coordinates the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Traffic Safety Partnership, represented the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office at the awards banquet.

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Protecting our children is an important part of the Sheriff's Office mission and we are proud to provide the community with certified child safety seat technicians and inspection opportunities.

Additionally, the Sheriff's Office was recognized for an outstanding level of ensuring that drivers, involved in serious or fatal crashes, were administered chemical tests to determine if they were driving impaired.

The recognition received by the Sheriff's Office is directly related to the Sheriff's Office's ongoing traffic enforcement programs. Recent statistics indicate that the number of fatal crashes has gone down in Vanderburgh County and we believe that this program has been a factor in that reduction and hope that the trend continues.

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