

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Dave Phalen, Sheriff



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - TENDER LOVING BEARZ DONATED BEARS TO SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN

[Lancaster, Ohio, February 19, 2014] Fairfield County Sheriff Dave Phalen stated Ted and Kathy Duffus with Tender Loving Bearz recently donated teddy bears to the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office to comfort children in the midst of strife. The fund was established in 2006 in memory of Kathy's daughter-in-law, Michele Byerlee- Black who passed away in January 2006 at the age of 38 from complications of diabetes.

Black was an avid collector of teddy bears and a loving mother of two who loved all children. Having a long history of hospital stays and ER visits due to diabetes, she believed it was important for a child who would need medical attention to have a "friend" to hold to make the process less scary. A fund was established by the family in her memory. Every year on her birthday, February 14th, Valentine's Day, teddy bears are donated to the ER of the local hospital, and as of this year, they were also delivered to the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office so deputies can give them to children they meet in less than ideal situations.

Ted Duffus, a dispatcher with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office since 2005, stated, "We hope that through this ministry, we are able to place smiles on the faces of children."

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