

March of Dimes



It is time again for our annual March of Dimes fundraisers. This is a big deal with the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office, as the March of Dimes Organization is dear to us. Since Sheriff Watson took Office in 2006, he has motivated his staff to go out into the public and raise money for this worthy cause of saving Babies. He gives incentives to his personnel to outdo each other and to win a prize. The prize is a food party (your choice of pizza, chicken, or cook out) for the entire Division and the Sheriff will pay for it. Whoever raises the most money as a Team/Division, displays the effort, and enthusiasm, for a triumphant campaign is the winner. **We are starting with two events**

this year at the Wal-Mart Store on Frederick Boulevard. The first is March 27th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the second is on April 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We are looking for volunteers to come out (in uniform, if possible) and educate people on the how the March of Dimes is saving babies and ask for donations. In past years, these Wal-Mart fundraisers have been extremely successful and we collected \$1,000 to \$1,300, each time we went out for these events. The Correction Teams, Traffic and Civil Process have been very involved and "A" Team under Lt. E. Branch won last years Food Party, collecting the astounding amount of \$1,015.55. The whole team was actively involved and they came up with some great ideas on how to raise money. Sheriff Watson invited the team over to his house for a cook out and hoped everyone had a good time, even though the burgers and hot dogs were a "little" over cooked. He said if another Team/Division opts for a cook out this year, he would leave the cooking to someone else and just enjoy the time with the troops. In the next week, I will make my rounds to all Divisions and Teams to disburse all materials needed to start the March of Dimes Campaign. **The March of Dimes Walk will be on May 1st, registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the Walk starts at 10:00 a.m. at Olde Town, 221 High Street.** Entertainment and food vendors will be at the event and it it's always a lot of fun to participate in the Walk, which is supposed to be 5 miles, but I don't think it is that long. If you would like to volunteer some of your time for any of the events, please give me a call at 393-5461.

Here is a little History on the March of Dimes:

In January 1938, alarmed by decades of worsening polio epidemics and the terrible toll the virus was taking on America's young, President Roosevelt established the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. The National Foundation emphasized the nationwide significance and non-partisan character of the polio crusade. FDR believed that people could solve any problem if they worked together. Comedian Eddie Cantor coined the phrase "March of Dimes" (playing on the popular newsreel feature "The March of Time"), appealing to radio listeners all over the country to send their dimes directly to the White House. The campaign proved to be hugely successful. The National Foundation officially changed its name to the March of Dimes in 1979.

As the new century proceeds, the March of Dimes programs fund several different types of research, all aimed at preventing birth defects and infant mortality. These programs include basic research into life processes, such as genetics and development; clinical research applied to prevention and treatment of specific birth defects and prematurity; the study of environmental hazards; and research in social and behavioral sciences relevant to their mission.

The March of Dimes uses your money wisely: 77% of every dollar supports research and programs that help moms have full-term pregnancies and babies begin healthy lives. And your funds are used to bring comfort and information to families whose baby was born too soon, or sick.