

# 2013

# Essex County Sheriff's Office Annual Report Sheriff Richard C. Cutting



#### 2013 Annual Report

#### Member of the Essex County Sheriff's Office As of, December 31, 2013

Sheriff Richard Cutting\*# Serving Since 1976

Major Thomas Murphy# Serving Since 2000

Sergeant Douglas Gonyo Serving Since 2002

Deputy Paul Benway Serving Since 1988

Deputy Shawn Lydamore Serving Since 1999

Deputy Jessica O'Connor# Serving Since 2002

> Officer Corey Cole\* Serving Since 2005

Officer Christopher Bikowitz# Serving Since 2006

Officer Thomas Dorsett\* Serving Since 2006

Officer Michael McKown Serving Since 2006

> Officer Scott Sumell Serving Since 2006

Officer Jeffrey Wallace Serving Since 2006

Deputy Robert Budwick\*\* Serving Since 2007

Deputy William Rohrer\* Serving Since 2007

Officer Randie Woods\* Serving Since 2008

Officer William Forbes Serving Since 2009

Officer Jason Larmore Serving Since 2009

Officer Paul White Serving Since 2009 Undersheriff Michael Badger# Serving Since 1987

> Captain Peter Feeley\* Serving Since 2003

Sergeant Albert Leon Serving Since 2001

Sergeant Stephen Duso Serving Since 2006

Deputy Scott Bridge\* Serving Since 1992

Officer Michele Hommes# Serving Since 2000

> Deputy Robert Rice\* Serving Since 2003

Deputy Shawn LaPier\*# Serving Since 2005

Officer Terry Collins Serving Since 2006

Officer Robert Defelice\* Serving Since 2006

Officer Margaret Porter Serving Since 2006

Deputy Kyle Young Serving Since 2006

Officer Amie Pike Serving Since 2007

Officer Erin Woods Serving Since 2007

Officer William Orr Serving Since 2009

Officer Justin Bridge Serving Since 2009

Officer Damon Trybendis Serving Since 2009

Officer Kenneth Rider\* Serving Since 2009 Major David Reynolds# Serving Since 1999

Lieutenant Scott Gowdy Serving Since 2005

Sergeant Christopher Thwaits# Serving Since 2001

> Sergeant James Bigalow Serving Since 2007

> Deputy William Allen## Serving Since 1999

Officer Lloyd LaMotte# Serving Since 2001

Officer Daniel Harris Serving Since 2003

Officer Nicholas Denton Serving Since 2006

Officer Jamie Crandall\* Serving Since 2006

Officer Mark Lashway# Servicing Since 2006

Officer Jamie Velsini Serving Since 2006

Officer Tara Bobbie Serving Since 2007

Officer Steven Pike Serving Since 2007

Deputy Justin Bobbie\* Serving Since 2008

Officer Richard Carpenter Serving Since 2009

> Officer John Stone\* Serving Since 2009

Officer Karl Brooks Serving Since 2009

Deputy Erin MacDougal Serving Since 2010

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Officer Joshua Genier Serving Since 2011

Officer Dayne Hamel Serving Since 2012

Officer Jessica Ahfeld Serving Since 2012

Officer Thomas Forbes Serving Since 2012

Officer Bert Barber\* Serving Since 2013

Officer Cody Tromblee Serving Since 2013

> Michelle Baker Civil Clerk

Laura Carter Cook

Brooke Leon Cook Deputy Heather Genier Serving Since 2011

Officer Donald Barber Serving Since 2012

Officer Robert Thompson Serving Since 2012

Officer Aaron Diskin Serving Since 2013

Officer John Beeman\* Serving Since 2013

Officer Kaycee Kolodzey Serving Since 2013

> Daniel Egglefield Jail Nurse

Renee Cusprine Cook Officer Mark Bruce\*\* Serving Since 2011

Officer Robert DiBartolomeo Serving Since 2012

> Officer Christine Prue Serving Since 2012

Officer Timothy Gay Serving Since 2013

Officer Judson Zelinski Serving Since 2013

Nancy Crowningshield Confidential Sectary

> Patrick Putnam Head Cook

Devin Drummond Cook

#### \*Veteran

\*\*Active Military Reserve or National Guard # Trainer ## Hazmat

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# Code of Ethics for Sheriff

As a Constitutionally elected Sheriff, I recognize that I am given a special trust and confidence by the citizens and employees whom I have been elected to serve, represent and manage.

This trust and confidence is my bond to ensure that I shall behave and act according to the highest personal and professional standards. In furtherance of this pledge, I will abide by the following Code of Ethics.

*I Shall Ensurg* that I and my employees, in the performance of our duties, will enforce and administer the law according to the standards of the US Constitution and applicable State Constitutions and statutes so that equal protection of the law is guaranteed to everyone. To that end I shall not permit personal opinion, party affiliations or other consideration of the status of others to alter or lessen this standard treatment of others.

*I Shall Establish, Promulgate and Enforce* a set of standards of behavior for my employees which will govern the overall management and operation of my law enforcement function, court related activities and corrections operations of my agency.

*I shall not Tolerate nor Condone* brutal or inhumane treatment of others by my employees nor shall I permit or condone inhumane or brutal treatment of treatment of inmates in my care and eustody.

*I Strictly fldhere* to standards of fairness and integrity in the conduct of campaigns for election, and I shall conform to all applicable statutory standards of election financing and reporting so that the Office of Sheriff is not harmed by the actions of myself or others.

*I Shall Follow* the accepted principles of efficient and effective administrative and management as the principle eriteria for my judgments and decisions in the allocation of resources and services in law enforcement, court related and corrections functions in my office.

*I Shall thire and Promote* only those employees or others who are the very best candidates for a position according to accepted standards of objectivity and merit. I shall not permit other factors to influence hiring or promotion practices.

*I Shall Ensure* that during my tenure as Sheriff, I shall not use the Office of the Sheriff for private gain.

*I Accept and Will Adhere to this Code of Ethics.* In so doing, I also accept the responsibility for others in my profession to abide by this code.

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# History of the Essex County Sheriff's Office

The Office of Sheriff is one of the oldest public offices in government, having its roots in Dutch and English history. The Office came to New York with the Dutch colonists in 1609, the office being then known as the "Schout." When New York become an English colony in 1664, the Duke of York declared that the officer of the Schout would be continued, but the name would be anglicized to "Sheriff," which was the English equivalent of the Schout. By then, the Office of Sheriff was already an ancient public office in England and the 1000th anniversary of the Office was celebrated throughout England in 1992.

The Office of Sheriff was so strong in England and in the colonies that the King and his Governor in the new world restricted the Sheriff to a one year term, so that he could not gain enough power to challenge the King. That precaution notwithstanding, one of the first acts of defiance by the colonists against the King and his hated "Stamp Acts" was carried out by the Sheriff of Kent County, Rhode Island, who led a raid on the King's ship <u>Gaspee</u> and burned it to the waterline. Soon after, when the Declaration of Independence was read publicly for the first time, on July 8, 1776, it was read by the Sheriff of the City of Dhiladelphia.

The first Constitution of the State of New York, adopted in 1777, continued the Office of Sheriff as an appointed office with a one year term, and with all the duties and powers of the colonial Sheriff. In the second State Constitution adopted in 1821, the Office of Sheriff became an elective office with a three year term, and so with the successive constitutions of 1846 and 1894. The Office of Sheriff remains as a Constitutional office in our current Constitution adopted in 1938, and the provisions relating to the Office may be found in the New York State Constitution, Article 13, Section 13. One notable Sheriff of New York State is President Grover Cleveland. President Cleveland served as Sheriff of Crie County from 1870 until 1873, before moving onto becoming Mayor of Buffalo and Governor of New York.

Since 1799, fifty (50) men have held the position of Sheriff for Essex County. With Sheriff Thomas Stower being the first recorded Sheriff of Essex County to the current Sheriff Richard Cutting.



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# **Essex County Sheriff's Office**

# **Correctional Facility**

The Essex County Correctional Facility is staffed with fifty-six (56) officers and six (6) shift supervisors. These sixty-two (62) sworn officers have been certified by the Division of Criminal Justice Services, as Correction Officers or Deputy Sheriff's. These individuals work a schedule



that must cover a set amount of positions twenty-four hours (24) a day, seven (7) days a week. This includes holidays; our staff is required to work these days to maintain the safety of Essex County. Overseeing the jail shift supervisors is the Assistant Jail Administrator and the Jail Administrator. These men and women supervise a daily average inmate population of 83, with a high inmate population count of 101

and a low of 64. <u>For a total of 32,515 inmate days.</u> The new Essex County Correctional Facility opened in October of 2007. 2008 was the first full year of operation. In 2008 our average daily local inmate population was twenty-one (21) inmates. The daily average of local inmates has increased to fifty (50) for 2013. A local inmate is defined as an inmate who has been committed or held for trial by an Essex County Judge or Magistrate.

In 2013, the Essex County Jail processed 803 inmates. Of these inmates, 381 were housed for other jurisdictions, to include: US Marshall's Service, both New York and Vermont Districts, Department of Homeland Security, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, NYS Parole, as well as various for profit prisoner transport services. <u>Housing inmates for these jurisdictions</u> has generated housing revenue of \$1,179,201.75. The remainder of 422 inmates were local inmates, remanded to the custody of the Sheriff by Local Criminal Courts and Superior Courts.

The Essex County Correctional Facility prepares meals for all inmates incarcerated in the jail. Minimum standards require three meals per day and one of them must be a hot meal. <u>In</u> 2013, 92,156 meals were prepared at a cost of \$2.14 per meal.

Included in the contract for housing inmates for the US Marshall's Service is transporting inmates to and from Federal District Court in Albany and Plattsburgh. We will also transport to and from FCI Raybrook. This is reimbursable to the county; <u>in 2013 the US Marshalls Service</u> paid the Essex County Sheriff's Office \$9,507.75, in transportation costs. The Essex County

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Sheriff's Office is also responsible for transporting local inmates to court appearances in town and county courts, medical appointments, etc. In 2013 the Essex County Sheriff's Office safely accomplished 595 inmate transports. Many of these transports had more than one inmate, and most of the transports also require two transport officers.

As a county jail, we are legally responsible to hold sentenced and un-sentenced inmates. In 2013, ninety-six (96) males and seventeen (17) females for a total of 113 inmates sentenced to the Essex County Correctional Facility. The remaining 336 inmates were held awaiting trial or further court action. These inmates are from the local criminal courts, county court and family court. As part of the court orders, bail is set by judges. This bail is to ensure that the defendant re-appears in court, not as a punishment. The Essex County Jail took in and processed **\$236,100.00** in cash bail for 2013. The Essex County Correctional Facility contracts with a company to provide the ability to use a credit or debit card to bail out of jail. Through this service we were able to process over **\$79,220.00** in bail.

The Essex County Correctional Facility has a set of rules and regulations that the inmates must follow. Failure to follow these rules can result in in-house disciplinary charges;

punishment can be loss of privileges, loss of good time, keep lock, etc. Additional criminal charges can also be filed. In-house charges are handled by a shift supervisor and a panel of correction officers. If found guilty, a \$25.00 surcharge can be placed on the inmate. In 2013, forty (40) inmates had in-house charges filed on them. Periodic searches are conducted within the correctional facility to prevent contraband. These searches usually include random searches of the inmate's cell, dayroom area or common areas. A couple times a year we enlist the help of police K9s to help search.



Inmates have the right to file grievances for anything they feel is an injustice. In 2013, 160 grievances had been filed and 134 of the grievances filed were handled in-house by facility staff. The other twenty-six (26) were sent to the Commission's Citizen Review Board in Albany and all grievances were denied by this review board.

# **Reportable Incidents**

The Essex County Correctional Facility has established a formal reportable incident system to ensure that all reportable incidents required by regulation are reported in a consistent systematic manner to the Commission of Correction. These reportable incidents include major or minor incidents, attempted suicides, individual inmate disturbances, assaults, fires, etc. <u>In</u> **2013 the Essex County Correctional Facility had seven (7) reportable incidents.** Three of these incidents involved one individual inmate. This inmate was eventually transferred to Central New York Psych Center for treatment. Three other incidents involved the use of chemical agents to restrain the inmate during an incident. The last incident was an officer injury, while attempting to subdue an inmate upon intake.

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#### **Inmate Programs**

Inmates housed at the Essex County Correctional Facility are allowed to have two onehour visits per week. These visits are on a first come first serve basis on scheduled hours on Saturday and Sunday. In 2013, 3,512 visitors came to visit inmates. This does not include professional visits for inmates. Professional visitors are: clergy, attorneys, counselors, etc.

Civilian staff and volunteers provide other services for inmates, to include, but not limited to: medical services, GED, substance abuse counseling, anger management, literacy volunteers, etc.

The Essex County Sheriff's Office was awarded a grant to bring a video conference system into the correctional facility. Video visiting is available for a fee to friends and family. Professional visitors such as Attorneys can utilize the system for a fee as well, but will save considerable time over coming to the facility for a face-to-face visit. In 2013, 238 video visits took place.

#### <u>GED</u>

The Education Program at the Essex County Correctional Facility is administered by the Elizabethtown - Lewis Central School District. They contract the services out to a provider, David Johnston, with over twenty years experience in correctional education. The purpose of contracting the services is to provide all required programs and to meet state mandates in a cost effective manner. The program is funded by federal and state programs designed specifically for incarcerated youths. There is no direct cost either to Essex County or to Elizabethtown-Lewis CSD. Inmates housed from other counties or the federal system increase revenues with no additional expense. Supplemental materials and equipment are purchased using funds from the inmate commissary account.

Any inmate under the age of twenty-one who does not have a high school diploma is required to attend school. Inmates over twenty-one are permitted to attend if they choose to do so. This exceeds the state mandate which only requires that they have the opportunity to attend school. This decision was made because of the fact that most of these inmates reside in Essex County and obtaining a high school diploma is an important first step in becoming a productive citizen. Inmates also receive instruction in personal finances, post-secondary education and training, civics, parenting, and entrepreneurship. Every student meets with a representative from One Work Source to insure that transition and support services are provided upon release. An inmate who is a currently enrolled student at an area school district continues his schoolwork while incarcerated. The program instructor obtains assignments and materials from the home school district and then returns completed assignments. The Essex County Correctional Facility has implemented a family literacy program as part of Parenting Skills. This allows inmates to develop important parenting skills and maintain healthy relationships with their children while incarcerated.

<u>The education program serves 5-10 students daily and 30-50 students per school</u> <u>year</u>. When funds are made available, a summer session is held. Elizabethtown-Lewis CSD has applied to be a GED Testing Center so that inmates can take their GED test while incarcerated.

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Currently, working with One Work Source, inmates are scheduled to take their examination at area testing centers at the first available date after release.

Education is an important component of any program designed to reduce recidivism and help inmates become productive, taxpaying citizens. During the most recent school year, inmates have completed the coursework necessary to obtain their high school diploma, many have received their GED, one completed their GED and enrolled at community college, and most have returned to the work force. Every inmate with the need has been provided the opportunity to advance themselves.

In 2013, our long time instructor decided it was time to retire. Dave Johnston built the program here. He started with us, while still occupying the old jail. When we moved to our current location, he came with us and changed the program to what we have today. A successful program, using modern teaching methods and the ability to administer the GED exam.

# St. Joseph's

St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment and Recovery Center provides a program at the Essex

County Jail, and 187 inmates took advantage. This program had 194 referrals in 2013. In 2013, 1299 service sessions were provided to the inmates of Essex County.

Brief Screening:	154
Evaluations:	8
Individual:	372
Group:	891
A Pod:	341
B Pod	390
C Pod	160
Other:	36

Treatment services were delivered with one (1) weekly men's group for each of the two male housing units



with available individual sessions available. 2012 saw an increase in the female inmate population, creating an increased interest in the program.

Essex County Mental Health also provides services to the inmates. A case worker comes to the jail to be meet with numerous inmates twice a week. We also utilize the Mental Health On-Call services for inmate mental health crisis.

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# VINE



The Essex County Jail participates in a program sponsored by the New York State Sheriff's Association called VINE, which stands for Victim Information and Notification Everyday. Victims of crime can call a tollfree number or visit the website for information on the

incarceration status of their perpetrator. Here, the victim can register to be notified once an inmate is released or their custody status changes. The victim will be notified by telephone or email. This has also become a useful tool for different agencies to locate inmates throughout the state and to be notified of their release. In 2013, 454 victims or other agencies registered to be notified about a release of an inmate. VINE made 98 notifications by telephone and 400 notifications by email. This number does not include the lookup of inmates. The website allows people to lookup information about the inmate, without having to register. The contact information for VINE can be accessed through the Essex County Sheriff's Office website. Statewide VINE, received 67,981 calls to determine the custody status of inmates. Web searches through www.vinelink.com, www.vinewatch.com and the VINE mobile application generated 2,006,264 searches for incarcerated inmates.





In 1996, New York State created legislation to collect and establish a DNA databank. This law has been expanded in recent years to include all persons convicted of any NYS Penal Law felony and certain misdemeanors to submit a DNA sample to the databank. This is done using a mouth swab. The Sheriff's Office serves as one of the collection agencies in the county. In 2013, 102 DNA samples were collected and sent to the Division of Criminal Justice Services in Albany to be processed and placed on file. New legislation requires a DNA sample taken from all people convicted of any crime.

# **Training**

In order to maintain a professional, safe place to work, the employees of the Sheriff's Office, sworn and non-sworn, go through training. This training consists of, but is not limited to, updates in policy and procedures, NYS Penal Law Article 35 training, defensive tactics, and PESH/OSHA requirements. On-line training is being developed to help reduce the amount of classroom time required, by using on-line courses. These on-line courses allow the staff to take classes while working their regular shifts. The Sheriff's Office also has ten instructors that have been certified by the Division of Criminal Justice Services. Having these instructors enables us to conduct our own Basic Corrections Courses, saving travel costs to other jurisdictions to receive this training.

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# **Mobile Patrol**



"There is an app for that." This free app for smartphones and tablets was made available to Sheriff's Offices around the nation who participate in the VINE program. The Essex County Sheriff's Office's app was turned on in 2013. This app is available in the Apple app store and in Google Play. This allows for people to be able to search the jail booking records and register to be notified about a change of custody status. It also gives the Sheriff's Office the ability to notify users of emergency alerts.

Information about sex offenders will be available soon on this app in the future, along with warrants of arrest.

# Patrol Division

The Essex County Sheriff's Office has sworn police officers who serve Civil Processes and enforce the laws of Essex County and the State of New York. <u>In 2013, the Essex County</u> <u>Sheriff's Office made 217 arrests including six (6) driving while intoxicated arrests, issued</u> <u>844 uniform traffic tickets for NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law violations and served 525 civil</u> <u>processes.</u> Also investigated fifty-eight (58) traffic accidents

**The Essex County Sheriff's Office responded to 584 complaints**. These complaints range from incidents of bad checks, domestic violence calls, animal complaints, burglary, etc.

The Essex County Sheriff's Office also investigated thirty-three (33) complaints of Animal Cruelty and made eight (8) arrests. Two (2) of these, involved the seizure of forty-one (41) horses which involved the coordinated effort of the SPCA, Crane Horse Rescue, Essex County District Attorney, Essex County Attorney, Essex County Animal Cruelty Task Force, three Local Veterinarians, Essex County Sheriff's Office and numerous volunteers.

The Essex County Sheriff's Office also executed twenty-five (25) criminal arrest warrants and thirteen (13) family court warrants.

Working with the Corrections Division the Sheriff's Office arrested six (6) individual for Promoting Prison Contraband. Individuals attempted to bring in drugs to the facility and through proper training and due diligence were able to prevent these people from entering the facility with contraband.

The Essex County Sheriff's Office also has deputies certified to participate with the Essex County Hazmat Team. These deputies attend the regular training with the hazmat team and are prepared to respond to a hazmat situation. One of these deputies is also in the process of becoming an arson investigator. In 2013, the Sheriff's Office was involved in ten (10) arson investigations.

The Essex County Sheriff's Office also increased our activity on the county's waterways. Patrols were out for regular summer patrols and also patrolled for all of the various fishing

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tournaments and for Lake Placid Ironman and the Fourth of July. Our Marine Patrol also assisted New York State Police in a water based death investigation.

The Essex County Sheriff's Office also received two (2) Humvees through the Defense Reutilization Program at zero expense in our budget.

The Sheriff's Office also assists area communities with town parades, traffic control for events, etc. In 2013, the Sheriff's Office assisted with the Lake Placid Ironman competition, Schroon Lake Distance Festival, Lake Placid marathon, The CanAm Rugby Tournament, and the Lake Placid Summit Lacrosse Tournament to name a few.

# Sex Offender Compliance Checks

In 2013, with the assistance of the US Marshall's Service, Lake Placid, Moriah and Ticonderoga Police Departments, the Essex County Sheriff's Office conducted checks of all Sex Offenders residing in Essex County. For the 2013, six (6) Sex Offenders were found to be in violation and arrested. An additional two (2) were found to be in violation of Federal Statutes and were arrested by the US Marshall Service. This is also an on-going process, where compliance checks are made regularly at random intervals.

# **Prescription Medication Turn In**

The Essex County Sheriff's Office participated once again in the Drug Enforcement Administration's prescription medication turn in program. This was a no questions asked program. Sheriff's Deputies were in the Public Safety Building lobby and other locations throughout the county for people to turn in any medication they wanted to dispose of, prescription and/or over the counter drugs.

# D.A.R.E.

The Essex County Sheriff's Office also has one D.A.R.E. Officer who visits the schools within the county and teaches to the fifth grade students. At the end of the course, students have a graduation ceremony. In 2013, our D.A.R.E. officer conducted seven (7) classes, reaching over 200 kids.

# **Child Safety Seats**

In cooperation with the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, the Essex County Sheriff's Office has four child safety seat technicians who inspect and properly install safety seats in cars. The technicians also teach the parents how to properly install the seats. In 2013, the Sheriff's Office sponsored and assisted at numerous events around the county. <u>The technicians inspected</u> <u>ninety-one (91) seats of which, only twenty-one (21) had been installed correctly.</u> <u>Technicians gave away fifty-three (53) new seats.</u>

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# **Operation Safe Child**

The Essex County Sheriff's Office participates in the Division of Criminal Justice Services program Operation Safe Child. This program provides two identification cards, one for the child to carry on them, and one for the parents to carry. DCJS also maintains a database, which can be used to help locate missing children. In 2013, the Essex County Sheriff's Office submitted over 1200 files to DCJS.

# Essex County Drug Task Force

The Essex County Sheriff's Office is a member of the Essex County Drug Task Force, along with the Lake Placid, Ticonderoga and Saranac Lake Police Departments, New York State Police, Vermont National Guard, DEA and the US Border Patrol. The Essex County Drug Task Force works in conjunction with the Franklin, Clinton, Warren and Washington County Drug Task Forces, in addition to the Albany Police Department, NYS Bureau of Controlled Substances and Cnet Albany. The task force opened sixty-three (63) new cases in 2013. Twenty-six (26) of these cases were closed by arrest and sixteen (16) were closed with no defendant. 468 marijuana plants were seized during the investigations.

# **Civil Division**

By state laws, the Essex County Sheriff's Office is required to have a Civil Office. Its purpose and function is to serve and execute the various legal processes issued not only by and for the several non-criminal courts of the state and its subdivisions, but also for the legal community and the general public. Departmental and divisional policies and procedures are consistent with New York State and court case law.

Deputy Sheriffs are public officers entrusted to perform specific duties that contribute to the administration of justice. The purpose of service of civil process is to give notice to a defendant of the commencement of a legal action or a proceeding. Although any private citizen over 18 years of age can serve processes if they are not party to the action, Sheriff's Offices are asked to serve processes because of their traditionally good record keeping practices and professional service. In 2013, the Civil Office handled \$751,706.10. This money includes bail fees processed, wage garnishments and fees for civil processes. Of this money, \$62,358.05 was revenue for 2013.

# **Community Involvement**

The Essex County Sheriff's Office has created a Benevolent Association. This association is made up of both Correction Officers and Deputy Sheriffs. The original creation was for a scholarship to be given to students at Essex County schools who are interested in pursuing a higher education in Criminal Justice. The school officials recommend a student from their school to receive this award.

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### In 2013, the Essex County Sheriff's Office Benevolent Association awarded six (6) scholarships:

Hunter Farrell Nicole French Jonathan Luxon Savannah Simmons Garrett Reynolds Lucas Wilson

The Benevolent Association is run by Sergeant Chris Thwaits, President; Officer Lloyd LaMotte, Vice President; Sergeant Stephen Duso, Treasurer. These three people donate time and effort to setup fundraisers, such as basketball, softball and golf tournaments to keep the scholarship fund going. In 2013 the Benevolent Association members participated in the third annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics, this the entire event raised over \$40,000 for the Special Olympics of New York. The Benevolent Association also collected toys for Christmas and donated then to organizations so that less fortunate kids could have a good Christmas. Also in 2013, the Benevolent Association worked with the United States Marine Corps, Toys for Tots and held an event they called Milk and Cookies with Santa. At this event over 100 children came to see Santa Claus and they received a present.

In April of 2013, the Sheriff's Office was touched by a very special young boy and his family. Mighty Matthew Cech, along with his family, was asked to assist in the capture of the Lollipop Bandits. Wanted posters of the bandits were sent to Mighty Matthew, so he could be on the lookout.

When Mighty Matthew reported for duty, he was sworn in by Sheriff Cutting as Deputy Mighty Matthew. Once the Sheriff completed his inspection of his newest deputy's uniform and gear, they headed out on patrol. It didn't take long for the action to start. They were soon in hot pursuit of Bob "Sugarman" Rice and Lloyd "Sweet Tooth" LaMotte. Deputy Mighty Matthew with the assistance of the Sheriff and Undersheriff placed the two Lollipop Bandits in custody and brought them directly to jail without further incident.

Matthew is a nine year old boy who is full of life, but fighting a life-threatening condition called mitochondrial disease. This



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disease or condition does not allow his body to absorb any nutrients. All medicines and nutrients are taken via a feeding tube. Matthew also cannot eat or drink, except for small amounts of water. The only thing his body can really tolerate are Dum-Dum Lollipops, and he has a supply on hand regularly.



2013 Christmas Party with Santa Claus (Deputy Shawn LaPier) and his Elf (Deputy Mighty Matthew)



Sheriff Cutting and Deputy Mighty Matthew headed out on patrol.

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Town	Number of Incidents
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Chesterfield	17
Crown Point	29
Elizabethtown	102
Essex	70
Jay	18
Keene	22
Lewis	66
Minerva	2
Moriah	170
Newcomb	I
North Elba	23
North Hudson	6
Schroon Lake	6
St Armand	3
Ticonderoga	28
Westport	29
Willsboro	34
Wilmington	8
Total	584

Road Patrol Incidents handled by Town