



RICHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SOUTH CAROLINA D.A.R.E. TRAINING CENTER

To Whom It May Concern:

Drug abuse, addiction and violence affect us all directly or indirectly. The far-reaching effect of this problem threatens the mental and physical health of our young people and families which directly threatens our entire society.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) an 80 hour certified training course officers complete to become instructors. These instructors then guide students in the 5th, 7th and 9th grades, strengthening their ability to live in the real world. D.A.R.E. Instructors develop skills to avoid offers of drugs or to engage in other high risk behaviors. Focusing on developing good decision making skills, *D.A.R.E. Officers are teaching young people the truth about drugs and violence, resulting in changes in their normative beliefs.* The truth will help save students from becoming victims of legal/illegal drug use and avoid violence (Bullying). We feel young people high and excited on life, participating in positive alternative activities, will becoming successful adults.

In our effort to turn around the young people who are making bad decisions **without turning to the general public to fund the effort**, **D.A.R.E. America** developed "New" innovative fundraising programs/partnerships designed to help local community-based **D.A.R.E.** programs raise money.

Mid-Atlantic Clothing Recycling Program (M.A.C.) is one of our partners see www.rcsd.net/dare/ **D.A.R.E.** officers help secure locations for clothing drop off bins in front of local community businesses, at schools, law enforcement agencies etc. We look for areas were there is high visibility and easy access for the community. Our local citizens have an opportunity to drop off clothes and other items they no longer want. Items recycled by **M.A.C.** (www.mac-recycling.com.) helps with the purchase of workbooks, tee shirts, and other items for the D.A.R.E. programs across South Carolina. These are the tools used by the D.A.R.E officers as instructional aids in the classrooms. This is a perfect example of law enforcement, schools, businesses, and citizens working as a team to help save our CHILDREN.

Mid-Atlantic Clothing Recycling Program (M.A.C.) made the purchase of Daren the Lion (D.A.R.E. mascot) possible. Daren, a symbol representing strength and courage to our D.A.R.E. students makes appearances in parades, at school D.A.R.E. graduations, camps or any functions dedicated to drug and violence prevention. The \$3,400.00 outfit purchased by **M.A.C.** makes appearances throughout S.C. upon request. Although Daren's home is with the South Carolina D.A.R.E Training Center, he is shared with all D.A.R.E. Instructors.

Thanking you in advance for hosting a site for a MAC Clothing Recycling Bin. Together we are making a difference. www.dare.com

Respectfully,

Arlene Sharpe
S.C. DARE Coordinator

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