

1989

Anne Garrison-Goodwin

Lake County Narcotics Unit

Anybody that has ever been a parent knows the challenges of raising children. Providing a good foundation of morals and principles, while navigating the pitfalls of peer pressure and exposure at too early an age to crime, sex, alcohol, and drugs, all provide parents and our educational systems challenges that at times seem insurmountable.

In 1989, the Lake County Blue Coats decided to honor a pioneer in assisting this fight to keep our children on the right path in life. Anne Garrison-Goodwin was a special agent with the Lake County Narcotics Agency. During her tenure she never fired a gun in the line of duty, nor had she ever confronted a criminal. Instead she spearheaded an anti-drug program designed to limit drug abuse through education.

DARE, or Drug Abuse Resistance Education, was a program started by the Los Angeles Police Department in 1986. Garrison-Goodwin was credited with bringing the program to Ohio. In Lake County, nine officers had been trained to teach the concepts of the DARE program. 26 Lake County schools were participants and 2,500 children were graduates of the program.

Garrison- Goodwin was nominated by Waite Hill Police Chief Keith Rohrbaugh, who cited her devotion to the program as the reason for her nomination. “Though the program is now gaining fame and recognition throughout Ohio, it all started right here in Lake County by a police officer who would not give up on the children and has left her mark on all of her students such as no police officer has done before.”

“Garrison-Goodwin would state that “We are saving the lives of our future leaders. Obviously reactive police investigation is the core of law enforcement, but I believe proactive work is vital to the community.” She also credited the Lake County Police Chief’s Association for their support of the narcotics unit and the DARE program.

She received her award which was now renamed as the Jorge Medina Distinguished Service Award (in memory of Doctor Medina who died in 1989). The event was held at the LaMalfa Center on January 17, 1990 at the annual awards dinner banquet.