



## Newport News Sheriff's Office

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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### One Step at a Time Dad's Engage in Child's Life

Fathers laced-up their walking shoes and grabbed hold of their child's hand for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dad's Walk. The event was held at Newport News Park on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Dad's Walk is sponsored by the Newport News Sheriff's Office, Transitions Family Violence Services in Hampton, and the Newport News Domestic Violence Task Force (NNDVTF).

The walk provides a unique opportunity to engage men in the effort to end domestic violence between intimate partners.

The NNDVTF is an all-volunteer coalition of agencies. Some Task Force members serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. They reached out to fellow military personnel by distributing flyers at Fort Eustis in Newport News and Langley Air Force Base in Hampton. That ensured a good cross section of participants from around the Peninsula.

There were lots of happy feet pounding the trails of the park. Still other children, too young to walk, enjoyed the beautiful day with daddy from a stroller.

Both Sheriff Gabe Morgan and Commonwealth Attorney Howard Gwynn participated in the two-mile family friendly walk. Sheriff Morgan greeted the walkers with a reminder, "The only thing your kids want from you is time," he said. The walk encouraged men and women to recognize the vital role that fathers and other male role models play in promoting healthy relationships.

Because the Sheriff and deputies are leaders in the community, they are natural role models themselves.

Morgan not only wants to help reduce domestic violence in the community, he is committed to reducing domestic violence internally. NNSO deputies and civilian employees work in a high stress environment. Sheriff's Office employees must learn to communicate if the stress of work appears to be leaking into the home. A *Healthy Relationship Pledge* has been implemented into

NNSO policy and procedure. Each employee has signed the pledge. Soon there will be internal training for employees. Deputies trained as mentors will provide further education for recruits.

As for Transitions Family Violence Services, you can learn more by going online to its web site: <http://www.transitionsfvs.org> For 30 years, Transitions has offered comprehensive intervention and prevention programs to help families with essential needs including emergency shelter, counseling, and children's advocacy services. They serve families in Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, and York County.

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