

A Portrait to Remember

One of the greatest professional callings in life is to be a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff. Public safety provides society a secure future, and it takes those special individuals who understand their role is bigger than just one person; it is for the betterment of the whole.

Deputy D'Andre Lampkin of Transit Policing Division believes deeply in just that, and he does so not only by providing public safety, but by bringing together children diagnosed with medical illnesses and their families through a unique photograph, resulting in true holiday cheer.

The non-profit Breath Giving Portraits Project, founded by Deputy Lampkin in 2011, provides children with pediatric-pulmonology-related diseases and their families a professional holiday family portrait.

Taking a picture may not sound like a big deal to most people, but as Deputy Lampkin points out, "Children spend a significant amount of time in the hospital being treated for their illness. They miss school, family gatherings, and time playing with friends. While the prospect of taking a family photo appeals to all, there are those who can't afford it or the child is not available because the wheezing is too severe to discharge them from the hospital."

In fact, seven million children in the United States suffer from severe breathing illnesses. The Breath Giving Portraits Project annually joins forces with Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) and invite patients and their families to a group family photo session with professional photographers in a special setting. The Project brings the photo studio to them. The photographers, make-up artists and stylists donate their skills, and they too, give back to the community. Umair Shafiq, David Stelmach, Tony Senior, Timothy Greenlee, Carolyn Leal-Landes, Tami Bahat, Brett Miller, Brian Parker, Ida Shirin Paulino, Peteyk Styles, and Delwin Lampkin generously and happily contributed to the Project.

This was not an easy project to get off the ground as Deputy Lampkin soon discovered. He tried in 2011 to get the necessary funding and fell short. But his motto: "If at first you don't succeed..." won the day.

Again, Deputy Lampkin explained, "I fought aggressively to find financial backers and supporters for the Breath GIVING Portraits Project. Unfortunately, in 2011 the project was not successfully funded. As a result, I didn't want to let down the children and their families. So, the entire project was funded out of pocket in 2012."

That changed in 2013 when the Project reached its fundraising goal. The final disbursement to CHLA was made in February, 2014. All funds were set aside for future Breath Giving Portraits Project activity, and research projects related to

pulmonary fibrosis and cystic fibrosis. At the conclusion of every photo shoot, additional prints are provided to the hospital to be shown in a gallery located in the hospital wing of their choice.

Deputy Lampkin summed up his reasons for the Project this way: “Perhaps this sounded like a Utopian idea. But a team of believers made it possible. Family photographs mean a lot and for many families, is a tradition of the holiday season. Many of us are fortunate to have the ability to have our entire family go to the photo studio. But then we forget about the children who are unable to leave the hospital because of their medical condition.”

Nobody is forgetting anymore, thanks to Deputy Lampkin!

For more information on the Breath Giving Portraits Project go to:

<https://www.crowdrise.com/breathgivingportraits>.

And to learn even more about the project, check out these sites:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJuRC10Cgu8>

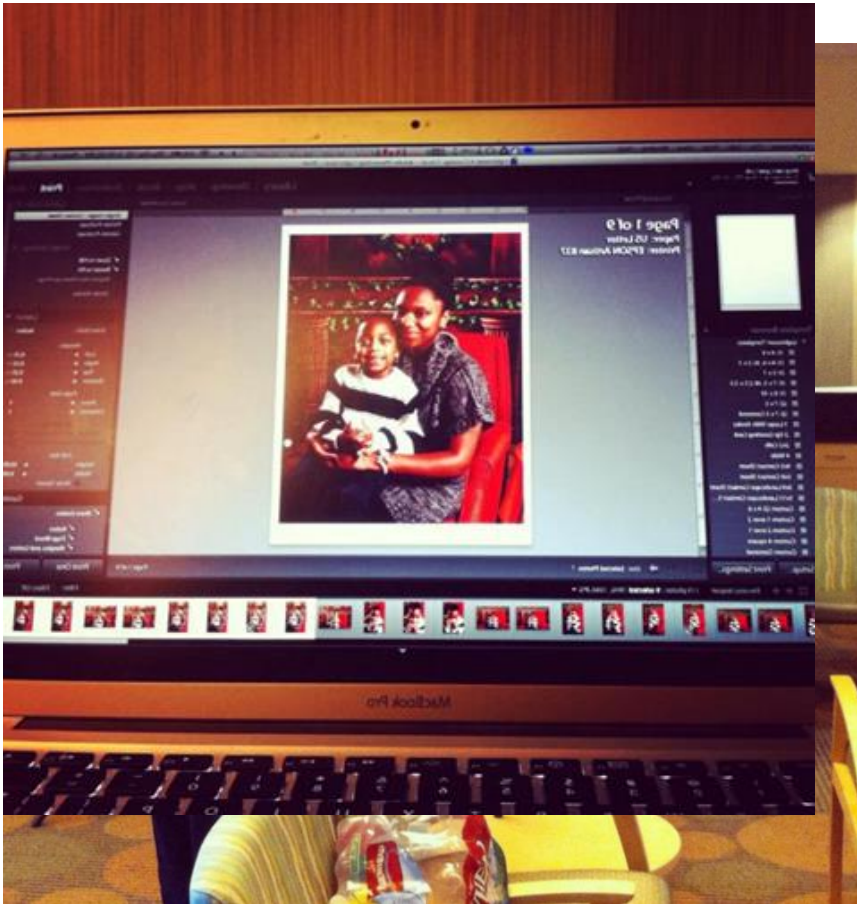
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9s2FH1DnWX8>



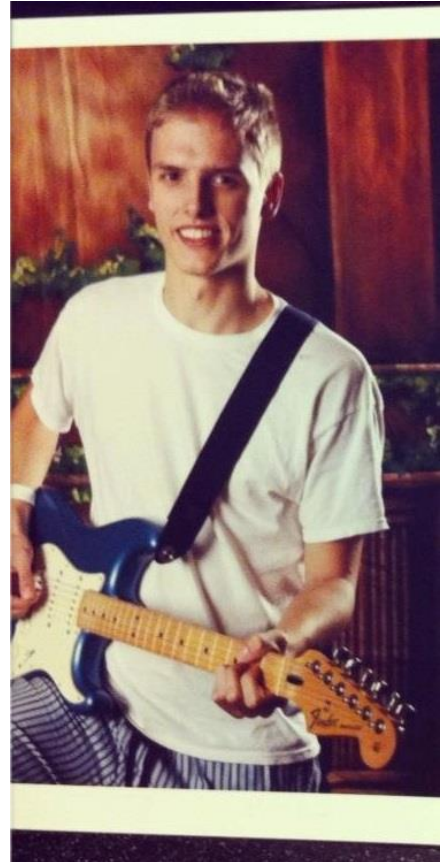
A thankful mom will be able to have a holiday portrait of her smiley son.



A family gets an opportunity to pose for a picture with their son.



This young man was able to send a photo to his mother who had not seen him since his admission to the hospital due to her inability to afford a travel ticket from Chicago.



...The most recent photograph his mother had of him was nearly five years old.



Making a happy memory together.



D'Andre Lampkin and Bahat on the other side of the camera.

D'Andre Lampkin and the volunteer crew mug for a commemorative photo.