

## Global Outreach Building Strong Foundations for Bright Futures

For the last three years, Deputy Steve Doucette, Deputy Jess Rodriguez and Sergeant Tom Giandomenico, assigned to the Special Enforcement Bureau, have jointly served on the Global Antiterrorism Team for the United States Department of State's Antiterrorism Assistance Program. As part of that program, the deputies were deployed in March, 2014, to Africa to provide Kenyan police with tactical and emergency medical training.



Kenyan Police officers practicing emergency medical training.

During their deployment, the deputies went to the small, poverty-ridden town of Matuu, just northeast of the capitol city, Nairobi. While there, they came upon a Capuchin Franciscan friar, Father Chris Musyoka, who goes by Father Chris. Father Chris operates a makeshift orphanage in Matuu and the deputies were instantly filled with compassion for the children and a high-regard for the work the friar was doing. Father Chris's humility and unrelenting devotion to improving the lives of so many

disadvantaged children noticeably moved the deputies. This was a powerful moment for them.

Life is difficult in poor communities such as Matuu, to say the least, especially if a child is without parents, education or job opportunities. Desperate for money, children often become vulnerable to the sex industry, putting their health, safety and lives at risk. Deputies Doucette and Rodriguez, and Sergeant Giandomenico were compelled to assist the friar to improve the lives of these children by way of the orphanage that would house, educate, and protect them.



The foundation of many futures.

After much heartfelt discussion and planning, Deputies Doucette and Rodriguez, and Sergeant Giandomenico formed a non-profit organization to create a safe haven where young people could be housed and educated. They named the organization the Kenya School of Angels, which would fund the construction of a new orphanage-school, also named the Kenya School of Angels.

Fellow Special Enforcement Bureau team member, Deputy Jim Moss, and the deputies pooled their money and sponsored a ten-day trip to Los Angeles for Father Chris. During his stay, the deputies organized a fund-raising dinner, which was attended by approximately 100 people and raised over \$30,000. With the help of many generous donations from deputies, family members and local businesses, the construction of a 500-student orphanage-school became more than a dream.

Since April, 2014, construction of the Kenya School of Angels has been underway. The foundation was laid, walls were erected and donated roofing materials were shipped from the United States. Additional funding would provide for a new playing field, and of course, everyday things such as clothing, bedding, hygiene items, building maintenance, school supplies, etc..

In just a short period of time, these accomplishments have significantly changed the lives and futures of those disadvantaged young people. Deputies Doucette, Moss and Rodriguez, and Sergeant Giandomenico were grateful for the generosity and humanity exhibited by their colleagues at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. It reached around the globe; all the way to Kenya.

For more information about the Kenya School of Angels project details, or if you wish to donate, please visit the web page for the School of Angels at:

<http://kenyaschoolofangels.wordpress.com/>

If you would like to contact Sergeant Giandomenico about the Kenya School of Angels, you may contact him at:

[Tagiando@lasd.org](mailto:Tagiando@lasd.org)



Construction underway.



Workers building the future.





Children

living in the orphanage, outfitted in uniforms purchased by the deputies during their visit.



Sergeant Giandomenico and a friend having a little fun with Matuu kids.



Sergeant Giandomenico and his family with Father Chris, during his California visit.



Sergeant Giandomenico coaxes a smile from a Matuu girl selling fruit.



Sergeant Giandomenico and Father Chris thank donors and attendees at the fundraising dinner.



Deputy Steve Doucette and Sergeant Tom Giandomenico on their way to train Kenyan police officers.

