

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **STUFFED ANIMAL DONATIONS HELP SUFFOLK POLICE ASSIST CHILDREN**

SUFFOLK, VA (March 17, 2015) What goes through the mind of a child when having to deal with a traumatic incident? Two local civic organizations worked to provide resources to the Suffolk Police Department when responding to a scene where a child is involved in a stressful or disturbing event.

Both the Suffolk Ruritan Club and Suffolk Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 141 donated new stuffed animals to Suffolk Police at a recent ceremony. The Ruritan Club "Rudy Bears" and Moose Lodge "Tommy Moose" will be used by Police to help calm children in times of crisis. The Moose Lodge donated 60 stuffed moose toys with proceeds raised from various charitable operations. The Ruritan Club donated approximately 50 stuffed bear toys with monies raised from their annual Shrimp Feast at Peanut Fest. The organizations worked separately on the project but came together to make the donation. Suffolk Police Officer Shelly Koziana helped make the connection between the Ruritan Club and the Suffolk Police Department.

Suffolk Police Chief Thomas Bennett noted, "The Department appreciates the donation of the Rudy Bears and Tommy Moose. By partnering with the Suffolk Ruritan Club and Suffolk Moose Lodge, we hope to lessen the effects of traumatic

incidents on children when our officers present them with one of these stuffed animals at these type scenes.”

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