

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year award nominations forms are sent to all law enforcement agencies in the area, as well as KBI, FBI, Highway Patrol and others. An awards committee then reviews all the nominations and chooses the year's recipients. The 2022 Awards Committee was chaired by Mike Hill and included retired law enforcement and citizens. Our congratulations to this year's winners!

Willard Garvey Crime Prevention Officer of the Year

Alex Stadler
Wichita Police Department



The Crime Prevention Officer of the Year recognizes a law enforcement officer or employee whose work in preventing crime has benefitted the citizens of Sedgwick County in 2022.

Alex Stadler is a 3-year member of the Wichita Police Department Crime Analysis Unit, assigned to the Patrol South Bureau. His strong working knowledge of many necessary programming languages make him a highly effective Crime Analyst. Alex works closely with the Patrol South Community Policing team and with the HOT – Homeless Outreach Team. Alex created and maintained a current events calendar for Executive and Command Staff to have constant access to events, protests and potential civil unrest events occurring within their respective areas of responsibility. Alex developed a Ranked Offender list, something no other police department in our region (including Kansas City, Johnson County, Tulsa and Oklahoma City) has.



Willard Garvey Crime Prevention Activist of the Year

Stephanie Quick
USD 259



The Crime Prevention Citizen Activist of the Year award honors non-law enforcement members of our community who have actively worked to improve the quality of life and safety in the community through programs or projects that proactively strive to prevent crime.

Stephanie Quick began her career with Wichita Public Schools as a high school teacher at South High. While at South Stephanie started a new program called "Youth Court" – a program that involves students in administering peer justice for student infractions. The program was so successful that it was quickly adopted by other Wichita high schools and continued until 2022.

In 2005 Stephanie was selected as a Drug and Violence Prevention Specialist, and soon was appointed the Supervisor of the Safe and Drug Free Schools Prevention and Intervention Program. In this position she successfully led a team of drug abuse and youth violence prevention specialists for all Wichita schools.

In her current role as Safety Services Supervisor Stephanie is considered the department's team threat assessment expert. Her leadership and commitment was instrumental in the expansion of SPEAK UP – the school safety arm of Crime Stoppers – to all 10 Sedgwick County school districts as well as the Catholic Diocese schools in Sedgwick County.

Stephanie is involved in many area organizations including the Safe Streets Coalition, Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center, and the Sedgwick County Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children.

Hero Award
Daphne Sanchez
WPD Officer Jerrad Daniels
WPD Officer Travis Cox

The Crime Commission takes great pride in bestowing a Hero Award to a sworn law enforcement officer or a citizen for acts of uncommon valor. This year we are honoring both a citizen and law enforcement officers for their heroic actions.

Daphne Sanchez

In September of 2022 Daphne Sanchez was sitting outside a gas station and witnessed Julian Gonzalez ramming his car into a car driven by Ramiro Angular. Inside the Angular car were a woman and 2 small children. After ramming the car Gonzalez broke the back window and started stabbing into the back seat of the vehicle where the children were located. Angular jumped into the back seat and covered the children with his body. When Daphne Sanchez realized what was occurring, she proceeded to drive her car between Angular and the Gonzalez car until police arrived. Ramiro would later tell detectives at the hospital that he believed Julian would have killed him and his children had it not been for Daphne's heroic actions.

WPD Officers Jerrad Daniels and Travis Cox



On a frigid night in December of last year, Officers Jerrad Daniels and Travis Cox responded to a domestic disturbance. While approaching the house they heard a young child screaming for help from a different residence. They ultimately found a 4-year-old child on a front porch of a residence wearing only a t-shirt and light pajama pants. The child was crying and clearly in distress. Initially thinking the child may have been locked out of the house, the officers tried the front door, but found it unlocked. Upon opening the door, they were met with thick smoke from a fire. They kept the 4-year-old from entering the house while they went in, calling for others inside. Officers alerted dispatch of the situation and requested fire and EMS response.

Inside the home they found a 2-year-old child in the living room and a 3-month-old baby on a bed in a back bedroom. Despite the risk to their own well-being and safety, Officers Daniels and Cox thoroughly searched the house. Finding no one else in the residence the officers took the three children to the warmth of their cars to await EMS. Wichita Fire Department Battalion Chief Winter and fire investigators on the scene stated the children would have succumbed to the smoke had Officers Daniels and Cox not found and removed them.



Humanitarian Award
Sedgwick County District Attorney Investigator Kristen Zluticky



The Humanitarian Award is an award given for the acts of an individual or organization in the community which rise above good deeds to clearly demonstrate compassion that improves the lives of individuals in our community.

Kristen Zluticky is a zealous, hardworking and compassionate investigator in the Sedgwick County District Attorney's office. Her advocacy for the elderly, education efforts in the community, and her willingness to dig into investigations that cross state lines is something few but law enforcement get to witness. She has trodden new ground for the DA's office in prosecuting fraud cases including "romance scams" and assisted in the identification, extradition, and prosecution of fraudsters across the country. She is instrumental in the FAST team, which works to investigate and resolve cases of elder abuse. She is also a consumer fraud investigator, helping low-income residents who have been swindled by deceptive business practices. Our community at large has benefitted from her diligence and commitment to helping non-profit organizations and victims of consumer fraud.

Excellence in Community Engagement

Wichita Police Department Patrol West Department of Motor Vehicles

Recognizing that it “takes a village” to keep our community safe, the Crime Commission introduced a new award for 2022 – The Excellence in Community Engagement Award. This award recognizes a community group, organization or individuals whose demonstrated efforts have enabled people to come together to address community issues that shape our community’s future and or quality of life.



The recipients for this new award are perhaps the largest group ever recognized by the Crime Commission; however their “Second Chance Thursday” is proof what collaborative efforts can produce.

In 2021 Patrol West started a program called “Second Chance Thursday” to assist citizens of Wichita in clearing traffic warrants and setting up court dates. In 2022 this program expanded to include additional violations, again with the goal of assisting citizens clear up these violations.

The Patrol West Community Police Team invited the Department of Motor Vehicles to join the Second Chance Thursdays. Brian Whalen, Kelsie Erwing and Jeff Taylor, all with the Department of Motor Vehicles, answer questions about how to reinstate driver’s licenses and answer other questions. In 2022 the Patrol West Community Police Team assisted in clearing almost 300 warrants. The DMV assisted over 270 citizens and 62 restricted licenses were completed.

The Patrol West Community Police Team continues to work within the community to assist the citizens of Wichita. Their love for the city shows and they are always ready to assist wherever a helping hand is needed.



Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office Detective Christopher Hehemann

This is the 33rd year the Wichita Crime Commission has presented the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. This award recognizes the exemplary work done by a law enforcement officer .

Detective Christopher Hehemann is a dedicated officer, serving his community with intelligence, hard work and discipline. Detective Hehemann is on the front lines of our battle against the flood of fentanyl that has been pouring into our community. As an undercover agent he has bought thousands of fentanyl pills and pounds of methamphetamine, and in the last year has indicated seven people through the US Attorney’s Office for their role in selling fentanyl in our community. Through his efforts thousands of dollars in cash and stolen goods have been recovered.

From writing search warrants to talking directly with Mexican sources to arrange buys to assisting in the investigation of a distribution/overdose fentanyl case, Detective Hehemann takes an active role in prosecuting those who bring illicit drugs into our community. In one case alone, fifteen additional indictments are in process. He has written over 40 search warrants. Sheriff’s Detective, Christopher Hehemann is the epitome of the core values of the Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office.

Criminal Justice Professional of the Year

Derby Police Chief Robert Lee



The Wichita Crime Commission's Criminal Justice Professional of the Year is an award that recognizes a person for his or her outstanding accomplishments in the criminal justice profession including law enforcement, the judiciary or other professions directly connected to criminal justice.

Derby Police Chief Robert Lee will retire on July 23 after 42 years of dedicated police service with the Wichita Police Department and the Derby Police Department.

Chief Lee started as a 22-year-old officer with the Wichita Police Department in 1980. He advanced through the department from an officer to detective, lieutenant, captain and eventually Deputy Chief. He was the Deputy Chief over Investigations when BTK was arrested and was there when the arrest was made, along with about 200 other police officers.

Although very happy with his career with the Wichita Police Department, Lee was interested in leading his own department. When the Derby Police Chief position opened in 2009 he applied and was accepted. Derby City Manager Kiel Mangus states, "the leadership that Chief Lee has provided during his career in Derby is invaluable. He is a dedicated public servant who put a strong emphasis on community policing and police officers being active and involved in the community, himself included."

Chief Lee was instrumental in the Derby Police Department obtaining accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, one of just eleven departments in the state. Under Chief Lee's leadership Derby crime has been reduced while the city's population continues to grow. Lee says his philosophy on leadership can be boiled down to one thought: "I think I will be pretty successful if I simply leave things better than I found them."

After 42 years we all agree that is exactly what Chief Lee has accomplished.



12 Apostles of Justice Mike Hill



Thirty six years ago, the Commission's board of directors decided to annually recognize a Crime Commission member for his or her outstanding contributions to the success of our programs. What better way to honor the memory of the 12 founders than to name the award "The 12 Apostles of Justice Award". Each year the recipient is chosen by his or her peers, thereby giving the annual award greater meaning.

Six decades ago, in 1963, Mike Hill started serving his community. He graduated from police training and was given a gun and a beat. The years went by and Officer Hill moved up the ranks. Then came August 11, 1976. It was a day that shocked Wichita and changed the

city forever. A 19-year-old man climbed out onto a 26th floor balcony at what used to be the Holiday Inn on Douglas Ave and opened fire. At that time police didn't have the fire capability to reach that far. In 11 minutes, then Wichita Police Lt. Mike Hill and other officers hurried to the hotel from City Hall, took the hotel elevators to the top, found the room where Michael Soles was repeatedly shooting – and Hill shot him through a glass door.

The Holiday Inn Sniper killed 3 and injured seven. The toll wasn't higher because of the bravery of Mike Hill and his fellow officers. This heroic man, Mike Hill, is who we are honoring this year.

Mike continued to serve his community. In 1979 he became the Commander of Special Investigations for the Wichita Police Department, then was asked to run for Sheriff. In 1984 he was elected Sedgwick County Sheriff...and continued to be elected three more times. He retired in January of 2001, completing a 37-year career in law enforcement.

Mike joined the Wichita Crime Commission in 2013, and immediately began making an impact. He was (and is!) our biggest cheerleader, inviting dozens of people to join our organization. Mike joined the Board of Directors in 2017 and became President in 2020 – during the Pandemic. But a little COVID didn't stop Mike! Through his leadership a new strategic plan was put into place, new committees were formed, and the Wichita Metro Crime Commission came out of 2020 financially strong with membership growing.

Last year the Crime Commission “roasted” Mike on his 80th Birthday. It is our honor to again recognize Mike's service to law enforcement, our community, and the Wichita Metro Crime Commission as the 12 Apostles of Justice recipient for 2022.
