



# D.A.R.E.



## D.A.R.E. Officer John Townsend

Lafayette Police Department



**No other job has ever made me feel pumped up and excited to come to work every morning!**

**D.A.R.E. Indiana:** Why did you decide to become a D.A.R.E. Officer?

**D.A.R.E. Officer Townsend:** I have always wanted the opportunity to work with children and give them a positive experience when dealing with law enforcement. I feel I have been gifted in relating with young adults and the D.A.R.E. Program offers a great platform in developing those relationships!

**D.A.R.E. Indiana:** Were you a D.A.R.E. student?

**D.A.R.E. Officer Townsend:** Unfortunately, I was not. D.A.R.E. was only two years old when I was in the 5th grade!!!

**D.A.R.E. Indiana:** How many years have you been a law enforcement officer?

**D.A.R.E. Officer Townsend:** A total of 19 years. I served in the Marines as a Military Police (4 years) and I am currently serving in my 15th year with the Lafayette Police Department.

**D.A.R.E. Indiana:** How many years have you been a D.A.R.E. Officer?

**D.A.R.E. Officer Townsend:** The end of this year will mark the completion of my very FIRST year!!

**D.A.R.E. Indiana:** Which D.A.R.E. curriculums do you teach?

**D.A.R.E. Officer Townsend:** I am teaching the elementary and the middle school curriculum at this time. I use the K-4 cards when I visit preschools and daycares.

**D.A.R.E. Indiana:** How many students do you teach each year?

**D.A.R.E. Officer Townsend:** This year alone I will be close to 1,000. I am hoping to expand next year!

**D.A.R.E. Indiana:** What is the most rewarding thing about being a D.A.R.E. Officer?

**D.A.R.E. Officer Townsend:** The most rewarding thing for me is that I know what I'm doing is having an impact on our students. It is great to hear from parents and students alike about what the program has meant to them. No other job has ever made me feel pumped up and excited to come to work every morning!

**D.A.R.E. Indiana:** What are the most important aspects of the curriculum? Why?

**D.A.R.E. Officer Townsend:** The D.A.R.E. Decision Making Model (DDMM) is the most important aspect. It's a great tool to put in your "mental toolbox". It's an invaluable tool for students to be able to think through a choice, simple or not.

**D.A.R.E. Indiana:** What is your favorite part of the D.A.R.E. program?

**D.A.R.E. Officer Townsend:** My favorite part of the D.A.R.E. program is working with the students throughout the 10 weeks, getting to know them and being a positive role model. I am blessed to have an office at the school, so I get to continue in developing relationships and encouraging children to reach for their goals!