

**Jackson County, MO Sheriff's Office**  
**Deputy Sheriff Raashid Brown**

For the past 9 years I've been blessed to serve as a law enforcement officer. Impacting the lives of those whom I'm privilege to serve by bringing resources to their community has brought me so much joy. I've serve two amazing law enforcement agencies, the Jackson County, MO Sheriff's Office (2009-2013, 2018) and the Dallas Police Department (2013-2018).

Early in my career I made a discovery that changed my perspective concerning law enforcement. That discovery was simply that law enforcement is comprised of problems. Those problems extend beyond every barrier imaginable. When problems arise, law enforcement is summons to bring peace. The peace we bring comes in many different forms. Peace could be separating the parties and helping them reach a solution, arresting the perpetrator, or being a listening ear while someone explains why they cannot seem to get their life together.

About 5 years ago I had an epiphany. Instead of being reactionary with problems, I thought it would be helpful to become proactive in fixing problems. My heart is focused on helping others, but the method in which I was doing it was not conducive for lasting change in the lives of those who I met. It was at that moment that I discovered "community policing".

Less than a year of moving to Dallas, Texas I started volunteering monthly at Trinity High School in Eules, Texas. This unique opportunity allowed me to teach life skills to high school students. Using my career as a platform, I was able to build positive relationships with students and to serve as a "believable hero" to many of them during and after their high school years. I covered a myriad of topics including: drugs and alcohol, dealing with peer pressure, suicide, labeling and more.

While with the Dallas Police Department, I contacted Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity. I came to the conclusion that community policing had to be done in a volunteer capacity. Building homes in south Dallas presented a unique way for Police Officer's to meet residents in the community and created an opportunity for community members to see the humanity of Officer's. Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity loved the idea. Within a two year period, the Dallas Police Department built four homes within the city limits of Dallas! This partnership still continues to thrive.

Receiving a grant from *Why We Serve* would support the Jackson County Sheriff's Office community policing efforts in a monumental way. With your help, we will be able to build trust and legitimacy and maintain healthy interactive/proactive relationships with citizens and businesses, while educating communities about crime prevention measures. Our community policing strategy focuses on community outreach. Jackson County is the second largest county in the state of Missouri. With over 600,000 residents, we are committed to forming supportive partnerships and relationships with our residents. The following programs are what we have will use the funds for:

*Coffee & Conversation*

Coffee & Conversation provides a safe environment in which citizens may communicate/interact with the Sheriff and Deputies. The majority of contact law enforcement officers have with the public tends to occur in high-stress situations that may not be conducive for nurturing positive relationships. Due to that, some of the public may be hesitant to approach officers while they're on duty. "A cup of Joe with J.C.S.O." will help to break down many barriers that prevent the public from talking with law enforcement and will allow dedicated time for relaxed, one-on-one conversations between the Sheriff's Office and the public. This initiative is a positive way to build healthy relationships and to strengthen partnerships between the Sheriff's Office and the community we service.

### *Jackson County Sheriff's Office Back-to-School Bash*

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office will host an event that assists economically disadvantaged students and their families with essential back-to-school supplies, health screenings, and haircuts. This event is a collaborative effort among the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, the public health department, state agencies, nonprofits, corporations, faith based organizations, and community volunteers.

### *A Taste of Jackson County*

Restaurants in Jackson County showcase themselves and offer sample "tastes" to citizens.