



# The **GEORGIA SHERIFF**

GUARDIAN OF THE PUBLIC PEACE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

“My Daddy  
is always  
watching  
over me.”



# C.H.A.M.P.S. Opportunity For All

The **C.H.A.M.P.S.** (*Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety*) program has been a priority of the Floyd County Sheriff's Office for nearly 12 years. The drug and alcohol awareness, anti-bullying and Internet safety program was created by the Georgia Sheriffs' Association and implemented by **Sheriff Tim Burkhalter** in the fall of 2005. Fulfilling a self-initiated campaign promise, Sheriff Burkhalter worked quickly to ensure implementation of programs to protect the youth through educational opportunities that would in turn make them productive Floyd County citizens. Burkhalter was, and still remains, passionately convinced that, if given a turning point, young people will never hear the sounds of jail doors slamming behind them.

C.H.A.M.P.S. became that turning point in Floyd County. A small town in his community presented an obstacle but a unique opportunity to the Sheriff: **how could C.H.A.M.P.S. be presented to children who are deaf or hearing impaired?**

Burkhalter wanted to see the children at Georgia School for the Deaf (which is located in his county) given the opportunity to participate in this program. Once again, he and staff worked to create a partnership with the Georgia School for the Deaf, which is now one of seven schools served by the Floyd County Sheriff's Office C.H.A.M.P.S. program. "They are normal, active, growing, curious children with the same needs and wants as any other child," stated Deputy Banks. "Upon initially meeting the GSD students you see a child who has a handicap. Quickly the students open your eyes! They do not see themselves as handicapped and neither will you."

Whether communicating with their hands or using their mouth to create words, children are children - vessels of hope and potential waiting to be cultivated. Every child deserves an opportunity to be impacted by the C.H.A.M.P.S. program, giving all access to an educational program which provides guidance and the skills, ability, and knowledge to be safe, healthy, and happy, in preparation for a successful life.



Information/article provided by:  
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