



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Rockford Police Department Graduates 16 from CIT

**Rockford, Illinois – January 19, 2010** – On Friday January 15, 2010 sixteen (16) Rockford Police Officers completed 40 hours of training in Crisis Intervention Team Training. The Rockford Police Department has graduated a total of eighty three officers over the past several years. The continuous ability to offer this training is due to the partnership between the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Board, Janet Wattles and the Mildred Berry Center.

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) consists of a team of sworn officers who receive intensive specialized training on dealing with individuals in the community who have mental illness. CIT members provide an immediate response to calls involving a mental health crisis situation. Topics in this training include mental illness recognition, substance abuse and dual diagnosis, child and adolescent disorders, psychotropic medications, developmental disabilities, risk assessment and crisis intervention skills.

Some benefits Rockford Police Officers and the community have seen from CIT include:

- ~~Crisis response is immediate~~ [More immediate response is a crisis](#)
- Underserved consumers are identified by officers and provided with [appropriate](#) care
- Officers are better trained and educated in verbal de-escalation techniques
- Officer recognition and appreciation by the community ([not sure what is meant by officer recognition](#))
- ~~Less-Fewer~~ “victimless” crime arrests
- Repeat calls decrease ([what type of repeat calls](#))
- Officer/ consumer safety increases
- Cost savings ([how and why?](#))

Chief Chet Epperson states that he “...will continue to seek out every opportunity for our officers to be highly trained in dealing with critical crisis situations”. “It is through this training that we are able to provide quality service to our citizens”.

~~The Chief stated that he is~~

~~Insert a short narrative about past success~~ “We are grateful for the training opportunities we receive due to the partnership between Janet Wattles and the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Board the Chief concluded.”:-

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