

Youth honored by local law enforcement

By GORDON JACKSON The Brunswick News - July 17, 2015



Glynn County Sheriff Neal Jump, left, and Camden County Sheriff Jim Proctor pose for a photo with area teen Chris Carswell following a ceremony at the Glynn County Sheriff's Office Thursday held to honor Carswell for his many volunteer services. Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Chris Carswell."

Chris has been adopted by both the Camden and Glynn county sheriff's offices, where he has been inspired to become a dog handler.

Chris said he was first befriended by law enforcement officials during a visit to St. Marys several years ago. He learned about the different needs of police dogs after attending a K-9 workshop.

Now, Chris is active with both the Camden and Glynn county sheriff's offices, where there may be a bidding war for his services in the future.

"I got to swear him in first," Camden Sheriff Jim Proctor said.

"I did it better," Jump said in response.

During the presentation at the Glynn County Sheriff's Office, Proctor and Jump took turns reading national recognitions Chris has received, including President's Volunteer Service awards in 2012, when he volunteered 381 hours; in 2013, when he volunteered 504 hours and in 2014, when he received the Gold award for 405 hours of community service.

The gold award also included a medal that was presented at Thursday's ceremony. Letters of recognition from the White House and two local service awards were also presented to Chris.

"This is a success story," Jump said. "It continues to be."

Proctor described Chris as an "amazing, amazing young man."

Chris Carswell has dedicated much of his young life to supporting law enforcement agencies through his 1Boy4Change foundation.

He has worked to raise funds through his foundation to purchase K-9 first aid kits and heat alarms to protect dogs while they are in vehicles. He has also raised funds to support the military and other people struggling with medical issues.

Thursday, it was Chris, 16, who was the one receiving support when he was honored by local law enforcement agencies for his active role supporting them.

"This person has had an effect in Camden and Glynn counties for several years," Glynn County Sheriff Neal Jump said. "This program is about

“It’s not just local,” he said. “Chris has done this all over the nation. It’s not just a local program.”

Chris’ mother, Janet Carswell, said the recognition by the two sheriffs, as well as representatives from the Brunswick Police and the Georgia State Patrol, are well deserved.

“I think he earned it all,” she said. “He put in a lot of time.”

The relationship has been mutually beneficial, she said, because local law enforcement officials have helped him deal with health issues he has struggled with his entire life, including seizures, brain surgeries and a recent diagnosis of Loreys-Dietz Syndrome, a rare congenital condition.

“I think having a direction gives him something to focus on,” she said. “It gives him hope with everything he deals with medically.”