



THE OUTREACH

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FBI Buffalo Hosts 2nd Annual Digital Dangers Event

On Nov. 6, 2025, FBI Buffalo, in collaboration with the FBI Buffalo Citizens Academy Alumni Association, hosted its second annual Digital Dangers virtual event, "Digital Dangers: When Online Chats Turn into Manipulation or Violence Against our Youth." Schools across the Buffalo area of responsibility hosted watch groups to view an online safety presentation by FBI Buffalo personnel.

Parents and guardians of students were invited to attend this simulcast. Past Citizens Academy graduates, FBI InfraGard members, and FBI alumni also got to view the presentation.

FBI Buffalo spent the evening effectively reaching parents and guardians in 46 school districts throughout all 17 counties of the Buffalo area of responsibility on topics such as online financial sextortion and online radicalization of children through nihilistic extremist groups such as "764." ■



FBI Buffalo personnel representing the Community Outreach Program, the Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Cyber Task Force, and the Violent Crimes.



Parents and caregivers of Newark Central School District outside of Rochester, New York, attend a watch group to view the FBI "Digital Dangers" presentation.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2-3 SUICIDE AWARENESS

The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division in Clarksburg, West Virginia, held multiple events to help educate employees about the signs of suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

4 NEW FIELD OFFICE

In October, the FBI established its 56th field office in Billings, Montana. This office is responsible for the existing satellite offices in Montana, which previously were handled by the Salt Lake City Field Office in Utah.

4 CITIZENS ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The FBI New Haven Citizens Academy Alumni Association participated in "Boxes to Boots" on Nov. 15. The chapter volunteered its efforts to bring smiles to U.S. military members away from their families during the holidays.

5 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is the illegal exploitation of a person, and anyone can be a victim of human trafficking. The Bureau raises awareness about human trafficking and shares resources to help identify and prevent this crime.

5 HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

FBI New York participated in Operation Santa to spread holiday cheer to more than 4,000 children. Employees joined members of InfraGard, local Citizens Academy graduates, and other law enforcement partners to bring Yuletide magic to local children.

6-7 OUTREACH IN ACTION

Community outreach specialists throughout the nation aim to create and strengthen relationships with local community groups, schools, and nonprofits.

CJIS Hosts Multiple Events to Recognize Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Suicide is preventable. Recovery is possible. Help is available.

September was National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division in Clarksburg, West Virginia, held multiple events the week of Sept. 22-26 to help educate employees about the signs of suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Guest speakers encouraged attendees to make time for routine checks of their personal wellness, seek help from others, and have open—though, sometimes difficult—conversations with peers.

The CJIS Speaker Series included guest speaker Matthew Griffin, a former law enforcement officer and author of “The Journey to Midnight: An Undercover Officer’s Path from Suicide to Redemption,” and Special Agent Genevieve D. Baushke from the FBI’s Pittsburgh Field Office.

Baushke visited CJIS on National Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness Day, Sept. 26, to share her personal experience with suicide and tips for checking their own mental health.



The Bridgeport Police Department’s therapy dog, Cassie, visits CJIS during National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.



Personnel pet a miniature therapy horse during his visit to CJIS.

Miniature horses from On Eagles’ Wings Therapeutic Miniature Horsemanship and therapy dog Cassie from the Bridgeport, West Virginia Police Department’s therapy dog, Cassie, also visited.

The Journey to Midnight: An Undercover Officer’s Path from Suicide to Redemption



Matthew Griffin talks to CJIS employees about his experiences with suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

Matthew Griffin is a retired law enforcement officer and Navy search and rescue swimmer. Griffin visited CJIS on Sept. 22 to share his roadmap to recovery from the years of trauma he endured while protecting the country.

Griffin said he was in a particularly rough mental condition and to make it through search and rescue school, he had to convince himself to take it one day at a time. Before he knew it, he had finished the eight weeks of school without dying by suicide. “When you make it through that day, celebrate

it, enjoy it, because you succeeded in life,” Griffin told CJIS employees. “You set a goal, and you accomplished it.”

While it is vital for first responders to be aware of their own mental health, it is equally as important for them to check on their peers. Even a simple text that says, “Just checking in,” can go a long way. Griffin’s old partner checked on him every day because he knew his mental health was in decline. This daily check-in kept Griffin going and slowly helped to improve his mental health.

To reiterate the importance of checking in, Griffin talked about how one phone call, just hours before his planned suicide, changed his path and led him to a new purpose in life.

Griffin went on to write his memoir, “The Journey to Midnight: An Undercover Officer’s Path from Suicide to Redemption.” The book chronicles his life, including his journey from poverty to his work in the Navy and then as an undercover police officer.

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National Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness Day Recognition Event



From left to right: EAP employees Nadua B. Pratt, Michael L. Harper, and Briony J. Poe with SA Genevieve D. Baushke.

FBI Pittsburgh Special Agent **Genevieve D. Baushke**, a victim specialist with the Charleston Resident Agency, visited CJIS on National Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness Day on Sept. 26.

Baushke was only 16 years old when her mother committed suicide.

She said nobody wanted to talk about her mother after she had died. "We think if we don't talk about our pain, it will hurt less," she told attendees. As a teenager experiencing this trauma, Baushke wanted to talk about her mother and the grief she had from her mother's sudden death. She opened up to her father about her grief, and she started therapy to talk about her feelings and to learn ways to move through her feelings.

Baushke told CJIS employees about her strategies for finding joy, such as grounding herself, having hobbies, and leaning on family and friends. Baushke's strategies for staying resilient are to seek help through therapy and proactively work to "lay the groundwork to weather the storm."

CJIS Employee Assistance Program counselors urged employees to seek help immediately if they are having suicidal thoughts or hear someone talking about suicide. EAP Counselor Michael L. Harper told attendees to look for three big signs in people who may be struggling with suicidal thoughts: hopelessness, helplessness, and worthlessness. The EAP counselors also had a table set up with resources for employees. ■

FBI Establishes 56th Field Office in Billings, Montana



Effective Oct. 1, the FBI established its 56th field office in Billings, Montana. The new Billings Field Office is responsible for the existing satellite offices in Montana, which previously were handled by the Salt Lake City Field Office in Utah.

Salt Lake will continue to be responsible for investigations in Idaho and Utah. The Billings office will enhance investigations and continue to strengthen the relationships with federal, state, local, and Tribal partners. ■

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*Our expansion in Montana is a critical part of our leadership team’s ongoing evaluation of how the **FBI can best allocate resources and personnel** to protect the homeland and serve the public. Establishing a full office in this state will **enable more robust investigations** over such a large territory and better support federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement partners in the region.*

FBI Director **Kash Patel**

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FBI New Haven and local CA chapter Donate Care Packages to Military Families

Mission: Demonstrating our love, support and appreciation for our military men and women by connecting these heroes with care packages.

The FBI New Haven Citizens Academy Alumni Association participated in “Boxes to Boots” on Nov. 15.

The chapter volunteered its efforts for the common goal of bringing smiles to U.S. soldiers who could not be home with their families for the holidays. Numerous members contributed many talents, pouring thought and love into each care package. Every volunteer contributed in some way to the fundraising efforts by collecting donations, creating special boxes, and packaging and shipping the boxes.

Volunteers know that to some soldiers, receiving a care package is the only connection to home they have. The care packages are a sign of the appreciation and support of volunteers, most of whom consider soldiers heroes. ■



FBI Observes National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January is dedicated to National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Human trafficking is a heinous crime that exploits the most vulnerable in society, including children. During this month, the FBI raises awareness about human trafficking and offering resources to help identify and prevent this crime.

Human trafficking is the illegal exploitation of a person. Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking, and it can occur in any U.S. community: cities, suburbs, and even rural areas.

Here in the United States, both U.S. residents and foreign nationals are being bought and sold like slaves. Traffickers use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-

paying jobs or romantic relationships to exploit victims. Victims are forced to work as prostitutes or to take jobs as agriculture, domestic, restaurant, or factory workers with little or no pay.

The FBI cannot combat human trafficking alone and asks the public to learn to identify victims and report suspicious activity by visiting www.fbi.gov/humantrafficking.

The public can also contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888 or by texting 233733. NHTRC is a national, toll-free hotline. Specialists answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. NHTRC also collects tips on its website at www.humantraffickinghotline.org. ■

FBI New York Participates in Operation Santa to Spread Holiday Cheer

Over 4,000 children with special abilities visited an airport hangar at John F. Kennedy International Airport to celebrate the holiday season. They enjoyed refreshments and received toys. Macy's Santa Claus arrived, waving from an airplane provided by Delta Airlines.

FBI New York had help from numerous employees, the FBI New York Explorers, members of InfraGard, local Citizens Academy graduates, and other law enforcement partners. ■

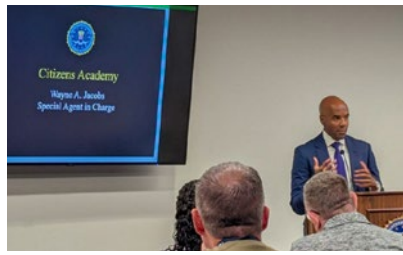


Congratulations!
Felicitations!

**Community Outreach Specialist
at the Washington Field Office
Honored**

Community Outreach Specialist Rebecca Ravitz received the FBI Medal of Excellence for her significant efforts supporting the outreach program in the Washington, D.C., area of responsibility.

Community Outreach in Action



FBI Philadelphia's Special Agent in Charge Wayne Jacobs delivered opening and closing remarks and answered questions on Sept. 9, the first night of the Philadelphia's fall Citizens Academy, Class #29.



FBI Seattle's Citizens Academy Alumni Association held its annual general meeting Aug. 20 to realign objectives with the field office's fiscal 2025 Strategic Outreach. Special Agent in Charge Mike Herrington hosted the meeting and highlighted recent local takedowns, helping to keep communities safe from violent criminals and drugs. Assistant Special Agent in Charge Jonathan Dean shared stories about his career and amplified the significance of community engagement and private-sector partnership to the FBI's mission. He also delivered a sneak-peek of the FBI Counterintelligence program in Seattle.



The FBI CJIS Division hosted the 2025 FBI Teen Academy on Oct. 14. More than 100 juniors and seniors from 37 different high schools across West Virginia attended the one-day event. Students explored information technology and forensic science while receiving age-appropriate lessons on violence prevention, sextortion, and hoax threats. FBI employees led discussions and interactive sessions about the FBI's work and why employees choose this work in service of all Americans.



FBI Philadelphia participated in "Summer Nights" on Sept. 5 as part of a free community event in areas specifically hit hard by gun violence. The initiative, hosted by the Philadelphia Police Department, took place in various communities over a six-week period.



FBI Jackson participated in the annual National Night Out event in September. Organizers created space for open dialogue and to brainstorm ways to make Jackson neighborhoods safer. NNO is a family-friendly event that promotes community building and partnerships between the community and law enforcement.



In September, Citizens Academy Alumni Association chapters from Buffalo, New Haven, and Salt Lake City visited the Washington, D.C., area for several tours and the full FBI experience.



Students at Hyde Park Elementary School in Niagara Falls, New York, enjoyed a visit from FBI Buffalo. Personnel shared information about online dangers and how to stay safe in a digital world.



FBI staff in Helena, Montana, hosted a special event for a local Girl Scout troop. Participants visited the office and learned about cyber safety, FBI technology, and evidence response.



FBI Louisville Community Outreach Specialist Andrew Coyle returned to his old elementary school to engage with over 200 students about FBI careers and staying safe online, and to demonstrate how to lift latent fingerprints. Coyle was in the first fifth-grade class at Southside Elementary when it opened in 1992. Coyle is pictured with his youngest daughter, Mallory, who is currently a fifth-grade student at Southside.

Community Outreach in Action



Faith and community members attend a Safety at Houses of Worship event at Victory Highway Wesleyan Church in Painted Post, NY.



In December, FBI Newark visited Bright Future preschool to provide an overview of the FBI mission and priorities. Children were able to view hidden evidence through alternate orange light sources and found hidden items in sand containers. They also got to see the Bureau vehicles with lights and sirens.



FBI Boston, along with the FBI Boston CAAA Chapter, partnered with Neighbors in Need to provide Thanksgiving meals to over 300 families. Neighbors in Need is a community-based organization dedicated to reduce hunger and food insecurity to people in Lawrence, Massachusetts.



FBI Buffalo was invited to participate in the third Annual "Preventing Targeted Violence Symposium" in Rochester, New York. Community Outreach Specialist Kimberly Smith provided resources and materials for preventing targeted violence and about the dangers of radical online groups such as "764."



FBI New York recently honored Jack S. Kishk with the Director's Community Leadership Award. Kishk (middle) is joined by SAC Felix A. Rivera-Esparra (left) and ASAC Anthony Bivona (right).



FBI employees from the Knoxville Resident Agency teamed up with Knoxville Citizens Academy alumni members to help Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee prepare Thanksgiving meal boxes for those in need throughout east Tennessee. The volunteer outreach was part of the Faith and Blue initiative. Volunteers packed 850 Thanksgiving meal boxes, filled 250 weekday food boxes, and prepared 1,000 individual-serve cereal bags. Additionally, the Knoxville FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association donated \$2,500 to Second Harvest to help purchase food for distribution.



On Nov. 19, FBI Columbia honored the South Carolina Justice Network with the Director's Community Leadership Award. The collaborative group is comprised of several South Carolina organizations and individuals combating elder abuse and fraud.



The FBI Newark Citizens Academy Alumni Association hosted SHOP with a NJ COP, a community event that brought together law enforcement, first responders, families, and local partners. The event began with static displays featuring law enforcement and first responder vehicles in front of the BJ's Warehouse entrance. Children shopped alongside their assigned officers, then enjoyed a full day of activities including food and refreshments, Coffee/Chai with a Cop, gift wrapping, and other family-friendly experiences.

We are the FBI

We are 32,000 people strong — living, working, and raising our families in hundreds of towns and cities across the world.

We live by our core values of respect, integrity, accountability, fairness, compassion, leadership, and rigorous obedience to the Constitution of the United States.

We live our mission to protect the American people and to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

We prioritize crushing violent crime, defending the homeland, rebuilding public trust, and fierce organizational accountability.

We believe in doing the right things in the right way, each and every day.

We believe in building trust and transparency through our actions, our words, and our relationships with those we serve.

We believe in joining with our shared communities to embrace justice today and a safer tomorrow.



What We Do

The better we know our communities, the better we can protect them. FBI community outreach specialists in field offices across the country create and strengthen relationships locally with community groups, schools, non-profits, and the American people.

The Community Relations Unit at FBI Headquarters, partners with national organizations to share information and support threat awareness.

These partnerships have led to a host of crime prevention programs, enabling families to stay safe from fraudsters and cyber predators, businesses to protect themselves from hackers and economic espionage, schools, and workplaces to safeguard against violence.



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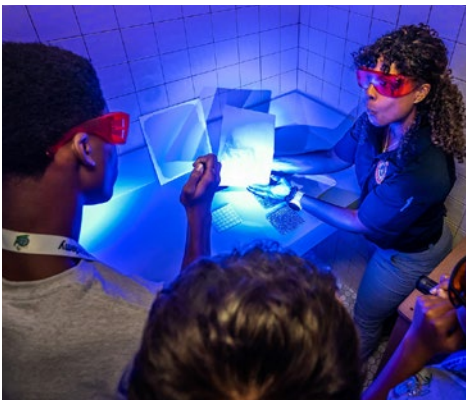
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Youth, Teen, and Collegiate Programs

Region-specific FBI Youth and Teen Academies and school-based programs help kids and teens learn to lead. Active explorations of forensic science, languages, and fitness grow their minds and bodies, while age-appropriate lessons on violence prevention, sextortion, and hoax threats teach them how to stay safe.

Young adults can join local FBI Collegiate Academies to explore how they can positively impact our world while preparing themselves for future fulfillment.

Citizens Academy

The FBI's Citizens Academy program brings community, business, and faith leaders together for a deep dive into the work the FBI does. These classes typically run 20+ hours over a series of days or weeks. Participants learn the facts behind the headlines in cases involving terrorism, counterespionage, cyber crime, violent crime, and human trafficking. Participants also learn about the training FBI employees receive, discuss the legal guidelines they must follow, and explore the specialty experience they bring to the job.



Community Awareness Presentations

Our Community Awareness Program is a shorter, more focused, version of an academy event that allows engaged groups to identify the FBI-related topics of interest, to invite participants, and to choose the meeting locations. These events typically run a few hours to a day in length.



Every field office has community outreach specialists who are eager to partner with you. Contact your local field office using the QR code.

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