



Community Safety Awards 2011

Winner profile: Ottawa Police Constable Mahamud Elmi

Enforcement Professional Award

When Ottawa Police Constable Mahamud Elmi walks the halls as a School Resource Officer, he remembers all those who shaped his life after he settled in Ottawa from Somalia at age 14. He credits their guidance with providing him the direction he needed to achieve his goals. Today, he says there's nothing better than giving back by supporting young people and watching them grow.

Constable Elmi works closely with at-risk students to help them overcome the obstacles that might get in the way of them successfully completing high school. He takes a proactive approach to his work by establishing relationships and building trust with students.

St. Patrick's High School Vice-Principal Gerard Stephenson credits Constable Elmi with being a role model and a mentor for students—building bridges between teenagers, their school and their wider community. In subtle, but consistent ways, he helps foster self-esteem and positive attitudes.

He knows that as a police officer, he has the power to grab people's attention. He uses that power to dispel myths about the police and teach young people about the value of paying it forward.

He's known for always going above and beyond the call of duty. He attends school sporting events, staff socials, school assemblies and special activities. On each occasion, he takes the time to reach out to students, their families and teachers.

He also believes in being a responsible member of his community, both locally and globally. He organizes friendly police-student basketball games and charity events to raise money to build a school in Somalia. Those who know him well say Constable Elmi models the very qualities that he fosters in others.

As for what rewards him, Constable Elmi says it's all about watching the students succeed. After all, he's been there and he knows the difference that one person can make.

For information, contact:

Nancy Worsfold, Executive Director
Crime Prevention Ottawa
Telephone: 613-580-2424, ext. 28518
Email: Nancy.Worsfold@ottawa.ca

To arrange interviews with award winners, contact:

Nicole d'Entremont
Waterwood Communications
Telephone: 613-608-7668
Email: nicole@waterwoodcommunications.com