



## Child IDs Proven Successful

Starke Police Department Advances Community Policing with IWS™ EPI™ Suite

The City of Starke, Fla., is currently experiencing its lowest rate of crime, which may be due to the heightened effort and awareness of community policing from the Starke Police Department, a recognized leader in the law enforcement community for their innovative ways of educating the community and enforcing the laws.

As a dedicated effort in educating the community, the Starke Police Department provides policing services that emphasize compassion and care for their citizens. The department has had a positive impact on reducing neighborhood crime, the fear of crime and enhancing the quality of life in the community through partner programs such as D.A.R.E., Morning Call-In and Child Seat Installation. As such, educating and emphasizing the safety of children is a crucial component of their efforts.

### Challenge

As part of the department's education and child safety initiative, Starke Police was determined to provide proactive resources to help make the community a safer place. Although Starke Police was well armed with a plan, it was lacking one of the most effective resources to make the initiative a success. The department needed a quick way to identify missing children.

"More than 600,000 children are reported missing nationwide each year," said Gordon Smith, Stark's Chief of Police. "And according to a 1997 study by the State of Washington's Office of the Attorney General, 74 percent of abducted children who are murdered are dead within three hours of abduction. There is not another crime like the abduction of a child that strikes fear in the hearts and minds of the community. Time is of the essence when it comes to the search for missing children."

### Solution

Starke Police Department needed to enhance its missing children reporting structure, which historically included the timely gathering of vital information such as a child's name, date of birth, height, weight, and any other unique identifiers. The ability to disseminate this information to broadcast alert systems such as Amber Alert, Code Adam and the Locator program was also critical.

The Starke Police Department soon turned to Symbology Enterprises, a leading supplier of photo ID card printers and ID card printing software, to implement an ID badging solution that would help speed the search performance and provide better timely reporting. Symbology recommended its kIDcard system which includes the IWS™ EPI™ Suite photo ID badging software by ImageWare® Systems, as the platform to design and create the photo ID cards.

"To take Starke Police to the next level, we needed to implement a critical solution that would meet their goals," said Shaun McInerney, marketing director for Symbology Enterprises. "We selected the IWS EPI Suite for the kIDcard system because of its comprehensive yet easy-to-use design and image capture features."

The kIDcard system enables Starke Police to provide child ID cards, which include vital information such as a child's name, phone number, date of birth and color photo. This information is digitally stored in the department's database and can be retrieved within minutes of the report of a missing child. The IWS EPI Suite also provides added security features such as password protection and the ability to capture biometric fingerprint data to

encode vital data in bar codes and on magnetic stripes if required.

### Results

The Starke Police Department has received significant results. In conjunction with the kIDcard system, Starke Police uses a program called Locator, a national alert system that enables the department to copy the photos of missing persons from the kIDcard system and create fliers that would be distributed throughout the community as well as alert other agencies outside its jurisdiction.

A few months after implementation, the department put the kIDcard system to the test. A frantic mother called the department to report her 7-year-old son missing and began to provide his vital information. She then suddenly remembered that her son had a kIDcard. Stark Police was able to create flyers within two minutes of learning that her son was in their database. In less than five minutes, all local gas stations and convenience stores were given the flyers containing the child photo and information. The child was brought home safely shortly after the flyers were distributed.

Today, the department not only continues to issue child ID cards, it has expanded the system to include badging the elderly and those who may have suffered strokes or from Alzheimer's disease.



**IMAGEWARE® SYSTEMS, INC.**

San Diego, CA • [www.iwsinc.com](http://www.iwsinc.com) • 858-673-8600