

Gabriella Meza

Crime stoppers newsletter

My name is Gabriella Meza, I have been with Odessa student crime stoppers for three years, two of them being one of the twelve ambassadors. Each year, the twelve ambassadors are assigned a different month to write a newsletter about a way we got involved/helped our community. When I heard about it, my heart leaped. I knew exactly how I wanted to help the community. I wanted to get involved with the special needs community. For this project I will bring Marshall and Chase from the Paw Patrol and our crime stoppers booth to the autism walk on April 24th. I am excited to partner with the SHARE organization. SHARE is an organization to help people with disabilities and their families in the Permian basin. Our goal is to make the kids smile and let them see that police officers are friendly faces. I know that when medical/emergencies happen police officers and first responders will be first on the scene. It can be overwhelming for someone with a disability to be surrounded by new unfamiliar faces, so it's important that we expose children and adults with disabilities to police officers so that whenever an emergency occurs they know that police officers are there to help. I am the older sister to my brother Ignacio, who has special needs. As a family member to him, my eyes have opened. Ignacio has tetrasomy 18p and autism, only about 300 people in the entire world have what he has. He is truly a miracle and blessing to my family. Ignacio had trouble walking, talking, and eating. He started to walk when he was three years old. For talking he uses a device to speak to us and for eating he uses a feeding tube. Ignacio has had some medical emergencies and first responders have always been there to help.

It is important to me that Ignacio learns that first responders are there to provide support. When Ignacio has these emergencies he's usually unconscious so he hasn't put up a fight whenever he's being helped/taken care of. This isn't the case for everyone. Many people get

into car accidents, fires, floods, etc. Whenever emergencies happen whether they are medical or not, first responders are there. When emergencies occur people with disabilities can be overwhelmed or confused. Which is why it is important for people with disabilities to know that first responders are there to help. Clear your calendar for April 24th at from 7:30-1:00 pm at Grande Stadium in Midland TX. All our welcome, Hope to see you there!