

New Baltimore Police Department



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MEDIA ALERT

EVENT: The 2011 Justin Mello KidPrint Program & Community Partnership

General description of circumstances:

The Anchor Bay Community Foundation's board of directors recently approved to renew the Justin Mello KidPrint program by allocating **\$5,289.00** to support the purchase of an updated digital identification system that is needed to replace current system which has been inoperable since October 2010. The New Baltimore Police Department has agreed to be the authorized agency responsible for the care and maintenance of the program. Students in the Anchor Bay School District along with local senior citizens will continue to be serviced without cost. The program should be operational within the coming months and available, daily, at the New Baltimore Police Department.

History of the Justin Mello KidPrint Program:

The Justin Mello KidPrint Program has been established by the Anchor Bay Community Foundation to assist in the ongoing efforts of parents, schools, and community and law enforcement groups in keeping children safe. Free community-wide program administered by the New Baltimore Police Department and assisted by volunteer staff, the program is offered as a service to families, schools and organizations serving those who reside in the geographic boundaries of the Anchor Bay School District.

After the tragic murder of Justin Mello in October 2000, hundreds of people from the community offered support and sympathy, donating thousands of dollars in Justin's memory to the Anchor Bay Community Foundation. Some of those funds have been endowed to create scholarships for law enforcement and criminal justice. The first of those was awarded in 2002.

The 1st annual New Baltimore Lions Club Polar Bear Plunge raised over \$12,000 for Justin's Fund. At the request of the Mello Family, half of those funds have been used to purchase a KidPrint Child Identification Program. Future use of the identification system includes programs for schools, senior citizen facilities (in particular for residents suffering from Alzheimer's disease), and community events such as children's bike safety programs.

Anchor Bay Community Foundation
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<http://www.abcommunityfoundation.org>

Donations to the Foundation will help support the Justin Mello Identification Program, and grants, and scholarships for cultural, social, and educational programs.

***This media release has been approved through the
Office of the Chief of Police, Timothy P. Wiley M.P.A.***

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