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PRESS RELEASE

Chatham County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Al St Lawrence
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The Chatham County Sheriff's Office launches a youth mentoring program

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office will launch a youth mentoring program targeted toward the local elementary schools on October 30th, 2009 at Haven Elementary School. The "Lunch Buddy" Program provides a child with an on-going relationship with a caring adult. Thirty deputies and staff employees of the Sheriff's Office and Juvenile Court have volunteered to become mentors.

The program is simple, adult volunteers commit to having lunch with a student at least twice a month. After lunch there will be time to read a book, play a board game, or just talk. The one on one relationship between buddies often make a profound difference in a child's life. Similar programs throughout the nation have resulted in positive benefits for the students. The City of Charleston, S.C. has been sponsoring their "Lunch Buddy" program for ten years. They have been beneficial in the development of the program for the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office will start the mentoring program at two schools, Haven and Garden City Elementary. The counselors have selected the students and the initial kick off will begin at Haven Elementary on Friday October 30th, at 10:30 a.m.. The start date for the Garden City Elementary School will be on November 6th, at 10:30 a.m..