

On the Scene

Miramar teenage cancer survivor becomes sheriff for a day

While spending time with law enforcement officers, including Sheriff Al Lamberti, might spell trouble for some, it was just the opposite for 15-year-old Tolbert Bain. The Miramar youth, currently in remission from Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, spent an unforgettable day as an "honorary sheriff" with the Broward County Sheriff's Department. The encounter was arranged by the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides financial support to

underprivileged children fighting cancer.

Guiding Tolbert and his mother, Shawn Singleton, throughout the day were Deputy Alan Barnes and Detective J.R. Cimoch who presented a number of unique activities that mirrored a day in the life of a sheriff. Among the highlights were a tour and welcome session at Broward County Sheriff headquarters, a visit with the communications division, a photo and one-on-one visit with Sheriff Al Lamberti, an aviation unit tour and helicopter ride, a Crime Lab tour and a

Marine Unit boat ride.

Tolbert, a sophomore at Everglades High School, learned a great deal from this experience as he listened in on 911 calls and saw first-hand how guns and other evidence are tested in the crime lab. Perhaps the most memorable part of the day was the private time he spent with Lamberti.

"When Tolbert was diagnosed with cancer in May 2008 his personality changed. As a teenager, losing his hair and weight really took a toll on him," said Tolbert's mother Shawn Singleton. "Since Sheriff Lamberti is also a cancer

survivor, he and Tolbert connected on a deep level and his positive words of encouragement really resonated with my son. I believe this experience will have a long-lasting impact on his life."

The Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation (www.jjccf.org) provides temporary financial assistance for needy children fighting cancer in South Florida. As advocates, they raise additional funds through media partnerships to ensure ill children maintain access to basic human necessities during times of crisis. ■



Deputy Alan Barnes, left, Sandra Mudvi, JJCCF founder, Tolbert Bain with mother Shawn Singleton and Detective J.R. Cimoch



Deputy Sheriff-Chief Pilot Christine Ponticelli and Tolbert Bain



Tolbert Bain in helicopter



Tolbert Bain, left, Chief Pilot Christine Ponticelli and Bain's mother Shawn Singleton