



Operation Shoestring offers youth safe haven

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By Roslyn Anderson - bio | email

A new Operation Shoestring after school program will bring police together with local students to help build relations and a better community.

Wednesday, Galloway Elementary School parents learned more about the Youth Safe Haven Mentoring Program and Police Mini-station.

About 50 first through fifth graders will participate.

J.P.D. Officer Rico Suttles will mentor the students and help introduce community oriented policing.

It is funded through a grant from the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation.

"The goal of this program is not just to provide one-on-one mentoring for your children but to provide constructive mentoring, academic tutorial assistance and to empower the community," said Operation Shoestring Deputy Director Dr. Martha Alexander.

"Give it to them now. Drive it home now. Make them understand that they are our future and what they get from you, they're going to take it somewhere and make their future," said Eddie Banks with the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation and Director of Field Operations for the Youth Safe Haven-Police Mini-station.

Jackson Mayor Harvey Johnson Jr. and Police Chief Rebecca Coleman were commended for dedicating an officer specifically for the Youth Safe Haven Program.

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