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NEWS RELEASE

More Than 1,300 Suspected Child Sexual Predators Arrested During Operation Broken Heart

July 7, 2016

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MADISON, WI – The Wisconsin Department of Justice’s Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force participated in Operation Broken Heart, which joined 60 other ICAC Task Forces nationwide in identifying and arresting suspected child sexual predators during April and May 2016.

During Operation Broken Heart, the Wisconsin ICAC Task Force made 87 arrests of suspected child predators and 129 community presentations on Internet safety. Dozens of Wisconsin law enforcement agencies who are members of Wisconsin’s ICAC Task Force participated in Operation Broken Heart. Nationally, the operation resulted in 1,368 arrests and the task forces conducted about 2,300 presentations.

“Children in Wisconsin and all across the U.S. are safer because of Operation Broken Heart’s success,” said Attorney General Brad Schimel. “When I was elected Wisconsin Attorney General, I made protecting our State’s most vulnerable a priority. I’m proud of the work the ICAC Task Force has done to investigate those individuals who use the Internet to exploit children.”

The national crackdown targeted offenders who: (1) possess, manufacture, and distribute child pornography; (2) engage in online enticement of children for sexual purposes; (3) engage in the commercial sexual exploitation of children (commonly referred to as child prostitution), and (4) engage in child sex tourism (traveling abroad for the purpose of sexually abusing foreign children). The Operation included more than 3,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies across the United States.

The ICAC Task Force Program was launched in 1998 to help federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies enhance their investigative responses to individuals who use the Internet, online communication systems, or computer technology to exploit children, to date, the ICAC Task Forces have reviewed more than 611,000 complaints of child exploitation, which resulted in the arrest of more than 66,000 individuals. In addition, since the ICAC program’s inception, more than 535,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and other professionals have been trained on techniques to investigate and prosecute ICAC-related cases.

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As part of Operation Broken Heart, the Wisconsin ICAC Task Force engaged in Operation New Hope, a one-week enforcement effort that included participation from over 40 Wisconsin agencies. Those agencies are:

Antigo Police Department
Appleton Police Department
Barron County Sheriff's Offices
Barron Police Department
Chetek Police Department
Delafield Police Department
Dodge County Sheriff's Offices
Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office
Eau Claire Police Department
Fitchburg Police Department
Grand Chute Police Department
Greenfield Police Department
Greenfield Police Department
Hartland Police Department
Homeland Security
Juneau County Sheriff's Office
La Crosse County Sheriff's Offices
Lake Delton Police Department
Langlade County Sheriff's Offices
Madison Police Department
Manitowoc County Sheriff's Offices
Marathon County Sheriff's Offices
Marshfield Police Department
Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office
Milwaukee Police Department
Minocqua Police Department
Monona Police Department
Oconto Falls Police Department
Oneida County Sheriff's Offices
Oshkosh Police Department
Outagamie County Sheriff's Office
Pewaukee Police Department
Randolph Police Department
Rusk County Sheriff's Offices
Shorewood Hills Police Department
St. Croix County Sheriff's Offices
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Marshals Service
U.S. Postal Service
Waukesha County Sheriff's Offices
Waukesha Police Department
Wausau Police Department
West Milwaukee Police Department
Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Wisconsin State Patrol
Wonevot Police Department

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