Operation Golden Shield

A joint effort between the Office of Justice Services District II Law Enforcement and the Anadarko Agency Branch of Social Services
In an effort to combat elder abuse and neglect and to ensure the safety and well-being of vulnerable adults in our Native community, the Anadarko Agency Office of Justice Services Law Enforcement and Social Services have implemented **Operation Golden Shield**.

The Anadarko Agency Former Chief of Police, Rick Decora, proposed that his officers make random “friendly” visits with vulnerable adults whether they are within or outside of territorial jurisdiction of the Anadarko Agency.
A list of 27 vulnerable adults was then compiled through a meeting sponsored by the Office of Justice Services, Social Services with local Tribal social services, Community Health Representatives, Southern Plains Regional Office of Social Services and Office of Special Trustee.
The list of individuals is maintained by the Anadarko Agency Branch of Social Services and the dispatch center for the Office of Justice Services Law Enforcement. This list is updated at a monthly agency APS (adult protective service) meeting or as needed.
The “friendly” visitation by Office of Justice Services Officers was implemented in August 2012 and is in full operation at this time. The Officers take 3 to 4 names from the list of vulnerable adults and visit them during their shift. The officers report success with the project and enjoy visiting with the elders.
If criminal activity such as physical, emotional, psychological abuse or financial exploitation is suspected, the activity is reported to the agency with criminal jurisdiction and the appropriate Social Services for assessment. The BIA will take whatever steps deemed appropriate to ensure the health, safety and financial well—being of the vulnerable adults.

One example of a reported incident interdicted an individual’s efforts to exploit an at risk adult and very likely saved $45,000 of that subject’s money. It should be noted that this incident did not occur on Indian land but through the collaborative efforts of the team and the sharing of vital information with other departments, this potential exploitation was successfully prevented.
Officer Brandon Mikkanen saw a need for the development of a tool that would aid in receiving information from elders when reporting criminal activity. Officer Mikkanen designed the magnet and the branch of Social Services paid for the magnets. This magnet has helped in locating the homes of rural residents and also in gaining better information from the caller. The magnet is handed out to elders at local tribal AOA programs, safety meetings, during welfare checks and other events.
The Office of Justice Services along with the Anadarko Agency Social Services and tribal social service programs, prepared and delivered a Thanksgiving meal instead of giving the traditional food basket to the elders that had been put on the vulnerable adult list. The meals were to be delivered by noon time, covering areas within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Anadarko BIA. The BIA Officers and Social Services staff delivered a total of 53 meals.
During this month, the Anadarko Agency Social Services had a “Golden Angel Tree” project. This tree contained 50 names from the vulnerable adult list plus some names that had been added from tribal social services. The gifts from the Golden Angel Tree were delivered by the Police Officers and Social Services Staff.

December 2012
February 2013

The month of Golden Sweethearts. This social service project was the first of its kind and was a great success. The 55 “Sweethearts” were chosen much like the Angel trees and gifts were bought by individuals and brought back to the agency social services office. On Valentine’s Day, the gifts were delivered by the BIA Police Officers and Social Services staff.
Neither the Bureau of Indian Affairs nor the Office of Justice Services has allocated funds to finance these community policing projects. All projects are funded through generous donations from Anadarko Agency and Southern Plains Regional Bureau of Indian Affairs Employees, local attorneys, Tribal Social Service Programs, Oklahoma Indian Bar Association, Tribal Gaming Commissions, CFR-CIO Court Judges and attorneys, and private citizens. None of the projects could have been completed without these contributions and the hard work and dedication of the Anadarko Agency Social Services Staff and the Office of Justice Services Officers, Telecommunication Equipment Operators, and Special Agents.

THANK YOU!!
A-HO, KAWT-SAY LAH
EEY-HEH-HEH
UUH-DAH-KAWK, MESSA-NAH
NAH-THICK-THES, NEE-AH
WAH-NEE-CHEE
SUUT-TEES
HAW-WIH