

## **Homework Club**

The Lowell Police Department began a Homework Helper Club in several neighborhood precincts in 1999. The goal was to link the police, local college students and neighborhood citizens in a community effort to give young children positive exposure to law enforcement through education. Although there was success, staffing problems and attendance numbers led to the decision to work with a local social service agency in two large city housing sites to attain this goal.

The Lowell Police Department Volunteer Program has partnered with Casey Family Services in their Homework club for the past three years. LPD college interns work in the Homework club as one component of their internship requirement. The interns tutor/mentor at-risk children in two federal housing sites. They not only assist with homework, but also serve as role models who allow children and their families to see first hand the positive impact of education, law enforcement, and community service.

The Lowell Police Department Community Services staff has participated in various safety and crime prevention presentations, children's fingerprinting, and community health fairs at both housing sites. LPD staff, community volunteers and interns have participated in these presentations. The partnership with Casey Family Services has enhanced the Lowell Police Department's commitment to community policing.