

## **Sun Prairie Police Department**

I was dispatched to assist officers on the scene of a child abuse investigation. I was tasked to remove the family dog to our impound facility as no one would be at home to care for the animal until later the next day. The children helped me get the family dog into my squad car and said their tearful goodbyes. I explained that the dog would be gone only briefly and to think of it like he was going on a short vacation. I reassured them that we would take good care of him. After placing the pet at our local impound facility I was next tasked with transporting the children to a shelter in Madison.

I first drove to the police department to pick up our SUV so I could transport the children more comfortably. While at the police department I remembered the R.E.A.C.H. a Child books so I grabbed a backpack to take with me. When I arrived back at the residence I could tell the children were upset as they had their bags packed and were saying goodbye to their family. I asked the children if they liked to read and if they would like some books to take with them.

They immediately got excited and began inspecting the books to see which ones they wanted. There seemed to be something for each one of them. I helped them to pack up their books and then transported them to the shelter. Once there each of the children gave me a hug and I reassured them that things would work out.

It was really nice to have the R.E.A.C.H. a Child books to give to these young children. It helped take their mind off a stressful situation and brought a smile to their sad faces.

**PO Michelle Wilson**

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