

Your News

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS TO
YOURNEWS@TIMES-CALL.COM

Longmont Police detective publishes book about domestic violence

By Robin L. Ericson

When Detective Sara Pierce saw the need for a children's book addressing domestic violence, she became determined to write one.

The result is "On a Dark, Dark Night," an illustrated, hardbound children's book explaining domestic violence in a story format, using words and situations that young children understand.

"On a Dark, Dark Night" takes the reader through the experiences of a young polar bear cub after he witnesses his father strike his mother.

The reader follows along as Cub finds help and support from his friend Moose and a new friend, Eagle.

The book touches on the very serious topic of domestic violence, but in a way that may help even the smallest children understand and cope with their own experiences.

The book illustrations were crafted from torn-and-cut handmade paper by Rebecca S. Lange and Ellen Schultz.

Lange was involved with the book project since its inception but sadly passed away in early 2008.

Schultz came into the project in early 2009 and was able to reproduce illustrations very close to Lange's style in order to complete the remainder of the book illustrations.

The Longmont Ending Violence Initiative published the book as part of its domestic violence prevention, education and awareness efforts.

"On a Dark, Dark Night" is made possible due to donations by Rotary Clubs of Longmont (Longmont, St. Vrain, and Twin Peaks), Rotary Club of Mead, Rotary Club of Erie, Rotary Club of Carbon Valley, the Boulder County District Attorney's Office, Nick Zelinger of NZ

Graphics and United Graphics.

All proceeds from the book will be set aside to fund future editions of the book.

"Writing a children's book is something I never imagined doing in my role as a police officer," Pierce said. "Domestic violence is such a hard subject to acknowledge, especially for children.

Although the journey from start to finish was difficult, just knowing that this book may help one child cope and understand the situations they've experienced makes it all worthwhile."

In conjunction with the release of the book, author Pierce and illustrator Schultz will be holding a launch party from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, at



Courtesy Robin L. Ericson

the Longmont Public Library, 409 Fourth Ave.

The public is welcome to attend this free event to celebrate the release of this much-anticipated book.

"On a Dark, Dark Night" is available for sale online at www.longmontdomesticviolence.org, and will be available online at Amazon.com and eBay.com.