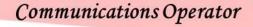
OHIO 2013 TELECOMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR



Tricia Balonier

Greene Central Communications Center

For outstanding work in locating a suicidal person who e-mailed a radio talk show in New York City; given limited information, she searched all sources until she found a possible location. Officers were dispatched to the address and upon arrival found the subject in the garage inside a running vehicle. Medical aid was administered and the subject survived on October 23, 2013.

On October 23, 2013 at 1037 hours, conservative radio talk show host Glen Beck received an e-mail at his Mercury Radio Arts studio in New York City. The e-mail was from an individual who was clearly despondent and indicated his intent to commit suicide. The e-mail was simply signed with the individual's first and last name and "Bellbrook, Ohio." At 1051 hours, communications operator, Tricia Balonier, received a call from the Vice President of HR for the Mercury Radio Arts studio who informed her of the contents of the e-mail. In addition, the actual email was forward to her by the Vice President. Armed with only a first and last name, Tricia immediately conducted a global search via our CAD system and OHLEG without success. Tricia then followed-up this search by entering the name, along with a fictitious date of birth, into LEADS. This search produced a possible address in Sugarcreek Township, Greene County, Ohio. Without hesitation, Tricia dispatched Sugarcreek Police Officers to the location. She also dispatched a Sugarcreek Township Medic Unit to respond and directed the Unit to stage in the area. Officers arrived on scene and within seconds reported that they could hear a vehicle running in the enclosed garage. The Officers also reported that they were unsuccessful in getting a response to their knocking at the entry door to the residence. As a result, the Officers forced entry by breaking a sidelight (window) near the door and reaching inside to unlock the entry door. The Officers rushed through the house, to the attached garage. Inside the garage, the Officers found a nearly unconscious and lethargic

adult male sitting inside a vehicle with the engine running. The Officers immediately requested the medic, which was staged nearby. In addition, the Officers turned the vehicle off, opened the overhead garage door for ventilation and assisted with removing the individual from the vehicle. As a side note, the carbon monoxide reading for the garage was 45 points per million. 30 points per million and above require the use of a breathing system by first responders. Due in large part to the involvement of Tricia, a very successful conclusion came from what could have been extremely tragic. Tricia went above and beyond what others may have done. In addition, she remained professional and extremely calm throughout the entire incident.

I appreciated Tricia's professionalism and attention to detail. Tricia also received written commendation letters from the Sugarcreek Police Department as well as the Sugarcreek Fire and EMS Department for her exceptional work on this call. Therefore, I am nominating her for the Solid Gold Award.