

STEVE GEHLHAUSEN

Unexpected Dream Come True: Steve Serves and Protects His Town

Graduate: Class of 1993 Occupation: Police Officer By Felicia Gehlhausen, Spring, 2010

Serving the town of Dale, Steve Gehlhausen works to keep peace and well-being among the people. From traffic control to making arrests, Steve-recently promoted to sergeant-has enjoyed the past four and a half years working for the Dale Police Department. One may wonder why someone would choose a career like this. When asked why he chose this career he humbly answered, "I want to make a difference in peoples' lives." Joining the Dale Police Department in 2005, Steve has done just that.

High school creates numerous responsibilities; Steve had the added responsibility of becoming a father to his daughter the summer before his senior year. To support his new infant daughter, he held a full-time job while in high school. Inspired by his father, Steve became interested in becoming a police officer his senior year. Steve graduated from Forest Park in 1993.

Following his high school graduation, Steve married his high school sweetheart, Becki Atkins, on July 10. Because of financial reasons, Steve chose to enter the work force out of high school. Steve began working at Kimball following his senior year of high school. While working, Steve began taking classes for a criminology degree at VUJC. He continued working at Kimball until an opportunity came to him. The town of Dale searched for another police officer. Steve applied and thankfully received the career of his dreams. Graduating with marksmen honors at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield, prepared Steve for his new career.

Dramatically diverse, Steve's days on the job can consist of traffic accidents, arrests, domestic disputes, or patrolling traffic. Finding his job rewarding, he enjoys being a police officer; however, this career does come with some downfalls. Undesired work hours take away from time spent with his family which consists of his wife, his 17 year old daughter, and his 11 year old daughter.

After experiencing tough situations in his life, Steve gives this advice: "Every teenager has problems; know that there is always someone there that is willing to listen or help. Find that person and ask for help." Also for anyone interested in becoming a police officer, he recommends, "Becoming a police officer makes it difficult for someone with plans of having a family. I find it extremely difficult being away from my family."

Through his example, we all have something to learn from Steve. He is proof that no matter what obstacles appear in your life, you can still achieve them if you have enough aspiration.