

Thanks for visiting Logan Daily News.

7 Remaining

You're entitled to view 8 free articles every 30 days. You will see 5 articles for free before being asked to register, and then you can view 3 additional articles by registering or logging in. Then, if you enjoy our site and want full access, we'll ask you to purchase an affordable subscription.

## Spotlight in the community: Chris Smith



8

Logan Police Officer Chris Smith is known throughout the community as the school resource officer at the Logan-Hocking Middle School and the father of two young girls.

By MORGAN SIGRIST Logan Daily News Reporter | Updated 1 week ago

LOGAN — As a school resource officer at the Logan-Hocking Middle School, a volunteer firefighter and father of two, Logan Police Officer Chris Smith is a local hero to many Hocking County residents.

Smith's face is a familiar one seen throughout the community, and whether he's breaking up a fight at the middle school, fighting a house fire or shopping at Kroger with his daughters, Smith always gives it 100 percent and serves as a role model for younger members of the community.

Smith first began his education in police science at Hocking College, where he graduated in 1990. He also put himself through the police academy while working as a dispatcher at Stark County 911.

Working with college students is different from working with everyday citizens because they are at an age where they are just beginning their lives, he explained.

"You can be the deciding factor to whether they stay in college or are dismissed," Smith noted.

Smith's life changed in 1997 when his daughter Morghen was born two months premature and was placed in a neonatal intensive care unit in Columbus for six weeks.

"It was really difficult to deal with as new parents; I never heard of prematurity until my own daughter was born (premature)," he explained.

Morghen was soon diagnosed with hydrocephalus, or fluid on the brain, and had surgery to place a shunt in her brain.

When Smith and his former wife brought Morghen home several weeks later, everything was fine for a few months until they started to notice a change in her behavior. They brought her back to Columbus where she was diagnosed with having a fungus on the brain, which was reportedly obtained from a dirty needle in the NICU unit.

For four months, Smith and his wife gave her IV drips of antibiotics for three hours a day to kill the fungus.

In 2000, Smith began working with the Logan Police Department after he saw a posting for a job opportunity as a school resource officer at the Logan-Hocking Middle School.

"I really enjoy working with kids... it's a blessing," he said of the job he still holds today.

Smith enjoys watching students grow up and go off to high school and being part of their lives. As the school resource officer, Smith has gained the respect and trust from both his students and their parents.

Students and parents comment on his Facebook page and photos, thanking him for his service and job he does within the school.

His younger daughter Kylee, 10, and older daughter Morghen, 13, have unwittingly taught him to understand children more.

He describes Kylee as the one who "likes to play mother" to her older sister Morghen because she understands her sister's limitations.

Smith also volunteers for the Nelsonville Fire Department, in between his busy schedule of being the school resource officer and the father of two daughters.

Despite his busy schedule, being a father is his number one role, he noted.