FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Police Academy dress down days aid Jermyn officer

SCRANTON, Pa. – Cadets currently enrolled in the Police Academy at Lackawanna College recently showed their support for a local police officer and Academy graduate in need.

From Nov. 18-22, members of the current class conducted a series of dress down days as a fundraiser for Officer Chris Brazen.

“Officer Brazen and his family suffered a terrible tragedy when his 17-month-old daughter, Jenna, accidentally spilled a cup of hot tea on herself, suffering first and second degree burns on her face, neck, and chest,” Academy Director Dan Duffy explained.

Brazen, a graduate of the Academy, is a part-time officer in the boroughs of Jermyn and Dickson City who will be unable to work while tending to his daughter’s immediate care, according to Duffy. He and his wife also have another child.

In exchange for a $5 per day donation, cadets and instructors were allowed to dress down and the Academy’s clean shave policy was temporarily suspended.

In all, a total of $2,531 was raised between students and staff at the Scranton campus and Hazleton center, with $100 donated to the Kelcey Strong scholarship fund in honor of a police officer’s daughter who recently passed away from cancer and the remaining $2,431 given to the Jenna Brazen fund.

Staff, administrators, and instructors of the Hazleton full-time class also donated a variety of household items to the Brazen family.

“This is a fine example of the support we need to share with our brothers and sisters in law enforcement during difficult times. Not only will the financial contribution be welcomed, but I am sure the support and solidarity will help on a broader scale as Jenna, Officer Brazen, and their family recover from this terrible event,” Duffy said.

-CAPTION-

Caption: Cadets in Scranton who participated in the fundraising effort to aid Jermyn Officer Chris Brazen and his family are, from left, first row, Danielle Marvin, Shane Smith, Nathan Manning, Robert Williams, Anthony Russo II, Trevor Dzanis, Antonio Russo, Matthew Evans, Jaclyn Gregor, Briana Hollenbeck, and Robert Hunisch. Second row, Kevin Walkowiak, George Brazdzionis III, Riccardo Godino, Stephon Burgette, Jonathan Rodriguez, Rob Haines, Jiovanni DonVito, Brandon Straub, Brice Finnerty, and Taylor Trubia. Third row, Kristian Kalch, Jason Oliver, Nicholas Scochin, Isaac Reid, Randy Schlatter, Josiah Misura, Craig Cebrick, Macson McGuirk, and Thomas Markovitch.