

A Dream Come True For LAPD Officer From Scotland

■ **Meet Angela Stewart, who works hard to keep young teens on the straight and narrow.**

Like you, Angela Stewart serves the City with pride and dedication. But no doubt unlike you, this native of Scotland took a long and unusual path from the small town of Dalry to the metropolis of Los Angeles to become a City employee and fulfill her childhood dream of working as a police officer.

Stewart, a youth services officer in the Los Angeles Police Department's Foothill Division, joined the LAPD nine years ago after emigrating to the United States to join her father, and waiting the required period to become a U.S. citizen.

As a youth services officer, Stewart supports her adopted city by working with the Law Enforcement Explorer Program, for youths aged 14 to 21. Established in 1962, the program allows volunteer youth participants to assist police officers with non-hazardous functions, including crowd and traffic control, and provides special training for future careers in law enforcement. In addition, the program frees up thousands of hours for police officers to handle other assignments.

Stewart recently oversaw the work of several Explorers who directed attendees at the swearing in ceremony of new LAPD

Chief William Bratton. "I really enjoy working with the kids," she said. "I see a lot of kids come into the program shy and not very outgoing, and start to see them mature into these very neat young men and women with more confidence. It's really nice to watch."

Stewart added that the Explorers, who must maintain a "C" average in school, often come from inner city and gang-infested neighborhoods, but don't want to take a negative life path. "They really put their necks out for the City," she noted. "They choose to try to better themselves and do something with their lives. It gives them a lot of confidence and exposes them to a whole other career path they might not have considered."

Stewart's own career path with the LAPD has seen her work in a number of capacities. When she came to this country at age 20, she went to Parker Center to find out about becoming an officer, and learned she first needed to obtain her U.S. citizenship. After doing so five years later, she couldn't get a position in the LAPD because of a hiring freeze, so while she worked at another job, she "bided her time" and volunteered for the LAPD IBARS (Immediate Booking and Release System) program for two years, helping

officers process paperwork for arrests.

Finally, in 1993, the dream she'd had since about age 10 became a reality, and she joined the LAPD in the Hollywood Division. Since then she also has worked at the Juvenile and West L.A. divisions in patrol and community relations, among other areas.

"When I worked patrol, I loved it," Stewart said. "It just so happened I was given the opportunity to try a different job. That's the beauty of working for the LAPD. There are so many jobs you can apply for and try." This variety, she added, "keeps it interesting."

Stewart now balances her commitment to work—which includes meetings every Wednesday night with the Explorers in her division—with her commitment to her husband, Greg Darvishian (a chef), and their first child, 18-month-old Meg Olivia. Having a

child, she said, gave her a new perspective on her involvement with the Explorers. "You kind of start thinking how you would like your child to be treated if he or she were in an organization [like this]," she explained.

The Explorer Program encourages youth in the community to look to police officers as role models, an important point to Stewart because she thinks the pub-

lic doesn't always hear enough about the good deeds of many officers.

"There are a lot of big-hearted police officers out there who go way above and beyond what they're required to do," she said.

Stewart makes time to attend parent meetings at the elementary school near her home to give parents the latest information about child safety programs and other issues. "We need to be approachable," she said. It's very important to have strong ties to the community."

The girl from outside of Glasgow who so wanted to become an officer certainly has come to exemplify the LAPD's commitment to community policing, doing her part "to protect and to serve" for one of the largest law enforcement agencies in the world. 🇺🇸

"There are a lot of big-hearted police officers out there who go way above and beyond what they're required to do."



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— **Eva Farlow-Malbrough**
City Attorney's Office

■ **Club Counselors Gave Her Good Advice**

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— **Rose Hyland**
Club member



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