

# Press Release

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## DOGS FOR D.A.R.E.

The Onalaska Police Department is kicking off the new school year with a fund raiser for the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and G.R.E.A.T.(Gang Resistance Education and Training) programs.

"Dogs for D.A.R.E." will be held on September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to 2p.m. at the Onalaska Walmart. The Onalaska D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. officers aided by community volunteers will be serving up hot dogs to commemorate the end of summer and raise funds for both programs.

A hot dog a bag of chips and a drink (either Kwikade or water) will be available for \$2.50. For those who prefer a heartier lunch chili cheese dogs will be available with a drink and chips for \$3.00.

"There aren't many places you can buy lunch for just \$2.50," said D.A.R.E. officer Leah Myers, "and it's such a good cause. The D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. programs are both self-funded now so to keep the programs in our schools in Onalaska we have had to get creative."

A few years ago a change in legislation effectively cut the D.A.R.E. program off from receiving funds from Municipal court

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fines. This year G.R.E.A.T. joined D.A.R.E. as an unfunded program when the grant that supported the program was not renewed.

"Our department has a deep and abiding commitment to our youngest citizens," said Officer Myers, "Developing creative funding sources is a small price to pay to keep these programs in our schools. Hopefully we will have a good turnout. So please stop by the Onalaska Walmart on September 3<sup>rd</sup>."