

Helping people in need has always been in NYPD Officer Larry DePrimo's blood.

Officer DePrimo grew up on Ronkonkoma, Long Island and graduated Connetquot High School in 2005. While there, he lettered in baseball, track and swim, and was a member of the high school's band. In between his various extracurriculars, he participated in a program called "Athletes Helping Athletes," where varsity athletes visit elementary school students and teach them about the negative effects of drugs and alcohol, and the benefits of participating in sports and other after-school activities.

Officer DePrimo continued his education and sports career at Pace University in Pleasantville, New York. He received a scholarship to run track and swim for Pace University's Division II NCAA teams. He set two records for Pace's swim team, and one record in the 4x1 relay for track. He graduated in 2009 with a 3.49 GPA and a dual major bachelors degree in history and education, and became certified to teach high school history grades 7-12 in New York. While at Pace, Officer DePrimo continued his philanthropic efforts by becoming a member of "Helping Hands", a cause where students volunteer their weekends to help those less fortunate in the community.

After graduation, Officer DePrimo taught 9th and 10th grade at Regents Global History at Connetquot High School during the 2009-2010 school year. However, Officer DePrimo felt he had a different calling, and decided to enlist into the NYPD Police Academy. He was accepted in July 2010, and after six months of training, was posted in the Midtown (Manhattan) South Precinct.

The defining moment of Officer DePrimo's young NYPD career came on the bitter cold night of November 14, 2012. Officer DePrimo was manning a post at West 44th street and Broadway when he noticed a man who had no socks or shoes. True to his character, Officer DePrimo offered to help. Despite some resistance from the gentleman, Officer DePrimo obtained his shoe size and bought him a \$100 pair of all-weather boots from a Skechers on West 42nd street.

As Officer DePrimo gifted the boots and a pair of thermal socks to the grateful man, tourist Jennifer Foster from Arizona captured the moment with her cell phone camera, unbeknownst to Officer DePrimo or the gentleman. Foster posted the picture on the NYPD Facebook page two weeks later, and Officer DePrimo's good deed immediately went viral. In two days, the photo was "shared" 133,000 times and "liked" by more than 409,000 people worldwide.

Officer DePrimo became an overnight sensation, appearing on *Good Morning America*, Fox 5's *Good Day New York*, CBS News, the covers of the *New York Post* and *New York Daily News*, and was featured in *People Magazine*.

Today, Officer DePrimo works in the Detective Bureau Queens Warrant Squad, and will receive his NYPD's Detectives Shield in October of 2014.