

## **First Crisis Intervention Team Training has 15 Brown County Graduates**

Nine deputies from Brown County Sheriff's Department were among the 15 Brown County graduates of the first Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training held November 18-20, 2003. The CIT program was developed by the Brown County Community Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services and received three year grant funding from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati.

The three day intensive training was modeled after the five year old program of the Akron Police Department. CIT is a nationally recognized best practice for police. The program provides training for first responders who are faced with persons who are in a mental health crisis. The newly learned skills are then tested in a role playing experience before graduation is achieved.

The CIT training lays a foundation of knowledge regarding mental health diagnoses, substance abuse, and medications and provides instruction on communication and intervention in a mental health crisis.

This program is offered to police officers, emergency medical technicians, probation and parole officers and those who deal with mental health crisis in their jobs. There is no cost for the training. The next classes will be offered in March, May, and October of 2004. If you are interested in attending, please contact Colleen Chamberlain LSW, M.Ed., at 937-378-3504.