

MY MOM GRADUATED FROM SPECIAL AGENT TRAINING AT THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER



By Steven Juneau and Grayson

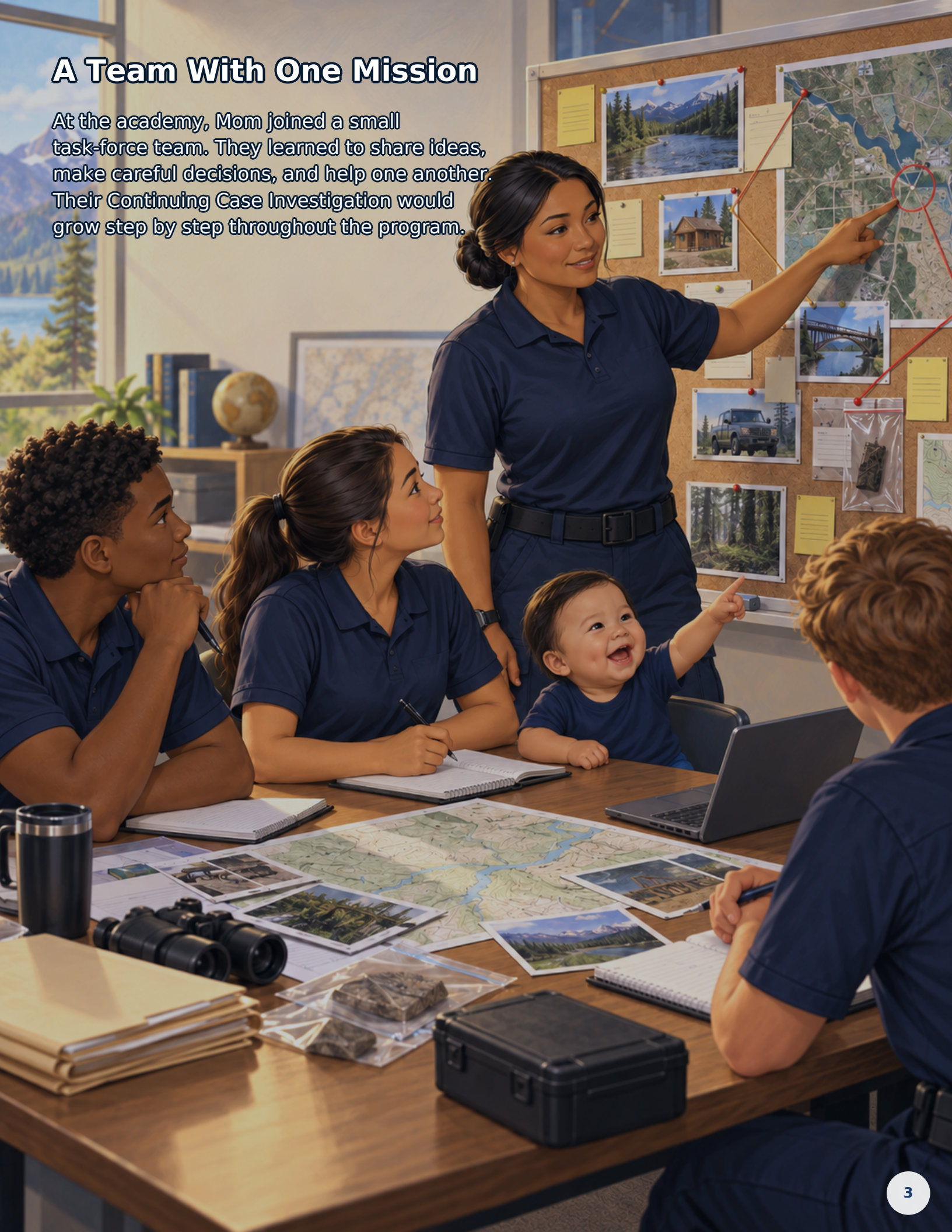
Mom Packed Her Courage

My mom packed her suitcase, hugged me close, and told me she was going to special agent training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. I missed her already, but I knew she was learning to help people and protect communities.



A Team With One Mission

At the academy, Mom joined a small task-force team. They learned to share ideas, make careful decisions, and help one another. Their Continuing Case Investigation would grow step by step throughout the program.



Listening for the Truth

Mom practiced interviewing witnesses. She learned to listen patiently, ask clear questions, and treat every person with dignity. Good investigators pay attention to both words and feelings.



Asking Suspects Fair Questions

Mom also practiced suspect interviews. She learned that special agents must stay calm, follow the law, and never decide what happened before all the facts are known.



Learning in the Digital World

Phones and computers can hold important clues. Mom learned mobile-device investigations, electronic surveillance, and safe ways to investigate in the cyber environment.



Driving With Skill

On the emergency vehicle course, Mom practiced steering, braking, and making quick decisions around cones. Speed was never the goal. Control, judgment, and safety came first.



Ready for an Emergency

Mom trained for active threats and practiced basic tactics with her classmates. They communicated clearly, moved as a team, and learned to protect people during dangerous emergencies.



The Case Begins to Grow

Week by week, Mom's team connected interviews, records, photographs, and other clues. No single clue told the whole story. Together, the facts began to make sense.



Watching, Waiting, and Thinking

Mom practiced surveillance, undercover operations, and working with informants. She learned that patience, planning, teamwork, and protecting people's safety are essential.



Following the Law

When the evidence was ready, Mom's team prepared search and arrest warrants. A judge had to review the facts. Special agents cannot simply search or arrest someone because they have a hunch.



Building a Federal Case

Mom helped write a criminal complaint and organize the evidence for an indictment. Every statement had to be accurate because a person's rights and a community's trust mattered.



Speaking Clearly in Court

Mom studied federal criminal law, courtroom evidence, and federal court procedures. Then she practiced testifying truthfully and explaining the investigation in a courtroom hearing.



My Mom Graduated!

Mom promised to act with ethical behavior and strong core values. On graduation day, I ran into her arms. I was proud of her diploma - but even prouder that she came home ready to serve with courage, fairness, and care.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Steven Juneau

Steven Juneau grew up on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and is a third-generation veteran. He served more than 30 years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services, including as Academy Director, and continues to serve leading the National Native Justice Institute with education, prevention, consulting, and resources that help Tribal Nations strengthen community safety institutions. Steve writes these books so children can understand the courage, learning, and service behind the work their families do.

Leadership is temporary. Institutions endure.

ABOUT NNJI



NATIONAL NATIVE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

The National Native Justice Institute is an education, prevention, consulting, and free-resources institution. NNJI supports Tribal leaders, governing bodies, public-safety professionals, and community institutions in making the best-informed decisions for their own communities while respecting Tribal sovereignty. We lead with real-life, lived Tribal community experience. Our work helps strengthen the people, policies, training, partnerships, and systems that keep Native communities strong and safe.

BRAVE PEOPLE. STRONG COMMUNITIES. BRIGHT FUTURES.

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