

The 2006 Report From THE CRIME PREVENTION COALITION OF AMERICA



Mobilizing the Nation

TO PREVENT CRIME, VIOLENCE,
AND DRUG ABUSE





The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is a private, nonprofit tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization whose primary mission is to be the nation's leader in helping people keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe from crime. NCPC's strategic plan for 2007 through 2011 is centered on four goals: protect children and youth; partner with government and law enforcement to prevent crime; promote crime prevention and personal safety basics; and respond to emerging crime trends. NCPC publishes books, kits of camera-ready program materials, posters, and informational and policy reports on a variety of crime prevention and community-building subjects. NCPC offers training, technical assistance, and a national focus for crime prevention: it acts as secretariat for the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, more than 300 national, federal, state, and local organizations representing thousands of constituents who are committed to preventing crime. It hosts a number of websites that offer prevention tips to individuals, describe prevention practices for community building, and help anchor prevention policy into laws and budgets. It operates demonstration programs in schools, neighborhoods, and entire jurisdictions and takes a major leadership role in youth crime prevention and youth service. NCPC manages the McGruff® "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®" public service advertising campaign. NCPC is funded through a variety of government agencies, corporate and private foundations, and donations from private individuals. NCPC participates in the Combined Federal Campaign.



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Dear CPCA Membership:

“Preventing crime is everyone’s business.” The first crime prevention action principle rings as true today as it did a decade ago. Crime trends have changed with record highs and lows, and we face crime prevention challenges today that were not even dreamt of when McGruff the Crime Dog® first emerged in the 1980s. However, through it all, the Crime Prevention Coalition of America (CPCA) has served as the steadfast crime prevention network across the United States.

2006 was another productive year for the CPCA. The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and the CPCA executive committee worked throughout the year to provide premiere resources, materials, and support to the coalition at state and local levels to support and sustain crime prevention. Highlights of the CPCA work include the following:

- We supported new regional **Crime Prevention Leaders Roundtables** (in partnership with the Virginia Crime Prevention Association). The success of these events, which took place in Virginia and Utah, has encouraged us to sponsor two similar events in 2007.
- We attended and participated in many of your **state crime prevention association and coalition annual conferences**. Staff was inspired by the dedication to crime prevention that we witnessed at every event.
- **The CPCA executive committee** met three times and also held frequent meetings by conference call to review and revise the CPCA standing rules as well as begin work to bring to life ***Engaging the Power of Prevention: Ten Action Principles***. As part of this work, the executive committee developed a new for-profit level of coalition membership that we expect to blossom during this next year.
- We published and distributed several documents such as the ***2005 CPCA Annual Report*** and the ***Crime Prevention Month Kit: Partnering With Law Enforcement To Prevent Crime***. We also distributed to the CPCA membership the new ***Neighborhood Watch Needs You*** document.
- We continued to provide weekly updates to you through the CPCA weekly **E-bulletin** and to enhance the **CPCA members-only website**.
- The **Peer-to-Peer Training and Technical Assistance program** continued to evolve and expand, taking hold in the states of Connecticut, Mississippi, Nevada, Montana, New York, Georgia, and Illinois. We are proud to note that the success of the initiative has led to the proposed addition of an eighth state site in 2007.

This document, the ***2006 CPCA Annual Report***, reflects the terrific crime prevention efforts that are spearheaded every day at the state and local levels. This report serves as a snapshot of the crime prevention activities across the United States and in no way captures all of your crime prevention work. Please use this document to share with your colleagues and constituencies the promise of safer and stronger communities that crime prevention brings. Additionally, please remember that the **8th National Conference on Preventing Crime** takes place in October 2007 and I hope that each of you plans to join us at this premiere event.

Sincerely,



Kimberly J. Dalferes
Managing Director

CRIME PREVENTION COALITION OF AMERICA

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Last Modified: November 16, 2006

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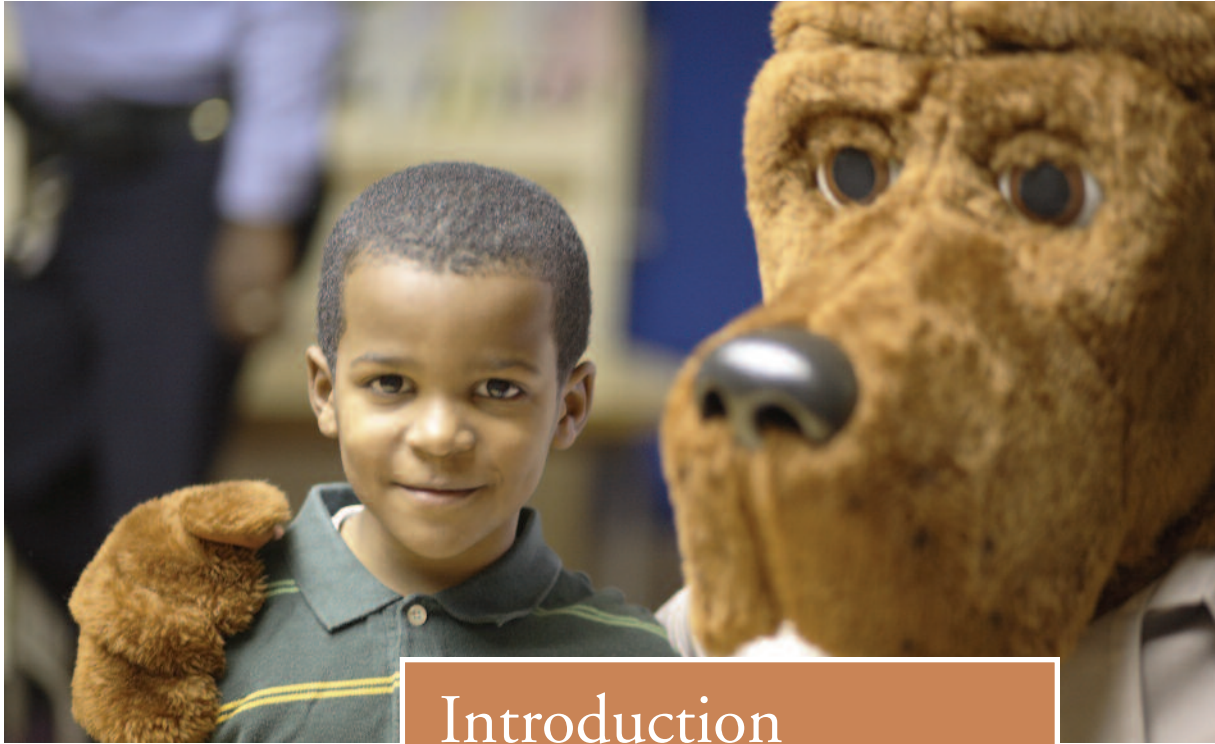
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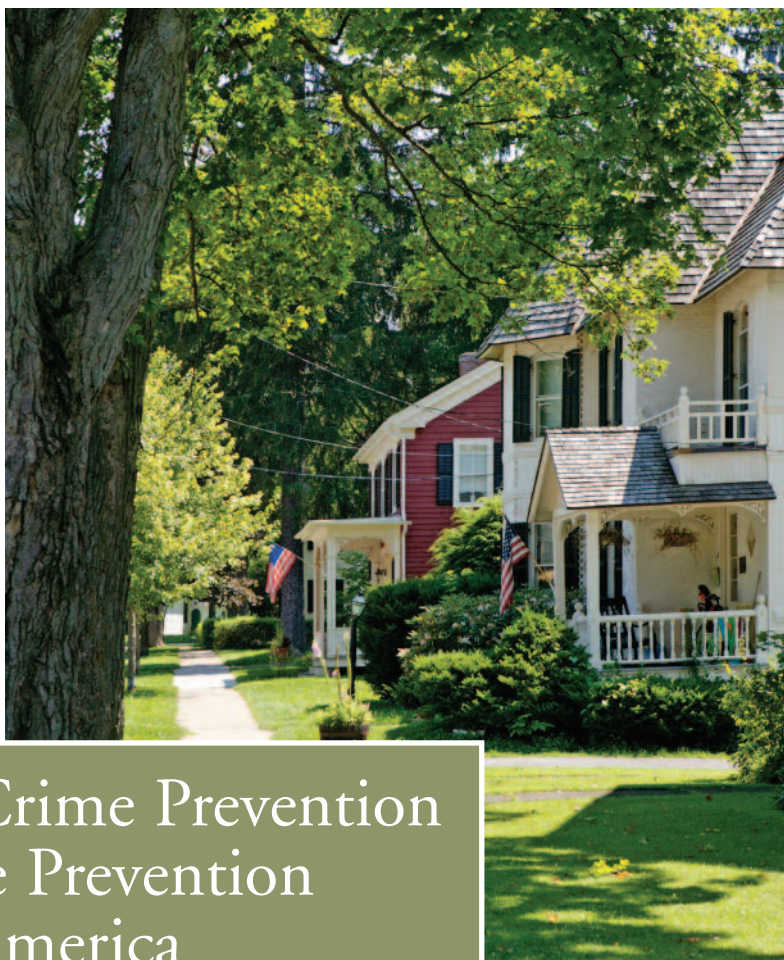
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Introduction

This annual report from the Crime Prevention Coalition of America (CPCA) offers a unique picture of crime prevention in the United States during 2006 by documenting the passionate and innovative efforts of organizations on the national state and local level as they strive to prevent crime and build safer, more caring communities. We hope it will also provide insight into the challenges faced by crime prevention practitioners as they focus on producing the tools that local communities can use to stay aware, to engage the skills of volunteers, and to coordinate local resources and planning activities in order to meet the nation's crime prevention and homeland security needs. Additionally, this report describes the Coalition's ongoing efforts to unite individuals with organizations committed to preventing crime in a national crime prevention movement.

The Crime Prevention Coalition of America, guided by its secretariat, the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), is a nonpartisan group of national, state, federal, non-profit, for-profit, and community-based organizations committed to taking action to prevent crime. Established in 1980, its members include crime prevention organizations, law enforcement agencies, youth development organizations, Neighborhood and Block Watch groups, city and county government agencies, national organizations, federal and state government agencies, and state crime prevention associations. These organizations share the common vision that, working together, they can create conditions such that each community, each individual, and each family will live, play, and go to school and work in a safe and caring environment, free from crime, the fear it arouses, and the costs—physical, emotional, and financial—that it imposes.



The State of Crime Prevention and the Crime Prevention Coalition of America

After a decade-long downward trend in violent crime, the FBI reports that in 2005 the number of violent crime offenses rose 2.3 percent when compared with data from 2004 (*Crime in the United States 2005*, annual report from the FBI Uniform Crime Reports). Of the most serious offenses, murder and non-negligent manslaughter showed the greatest increases, followed by robbery and aggravated assaults. The number of property crime offenses, however, decreased 1.6 percent, and burglary was the only property crime to show an increase (0.5 percent). The increase in violent crime indicates that there is still much work to do, but it should not overshadow the fact that crime prevention efforts continue to succeed on national, state, and local levels. The FBI reports that for the 10-year trend (1996 compared with 2005), violent crime declined 17.6 percent.

The Crime Prevention Coalition of America is committed to preventing crime in every community across the nation. The efforts of this body of organizations cannot be fully successful until every community benefits from the most effective crime, violence, and substance abuse prevention initiatives available. Crime prevention efforts reach a diverse audience and provide detailed solutions to the causes of crime. The Crime Prevention Coalition of America embraces this comprehensive approach. This report celebrates the

breadth and diversity of preventive efforts in communities across this nation. The member organizations of the Crime Prevention Coalition of America in partnership with NCPC have had, and continue to have, a critical impact on the levels of crime facing American communities. Examples include the following:

- The multifaceted approach of the Citizen Corps program, which includes the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) and Neighborhood Watch
- The Girl Scouts of the USA P.A.V.E. the Way (Project Anti-violence Education) program
- The new McGruff Club program, which is being piloted in Boys & Girls Clubs
- The Kupuna ID Project in Hawaii
- The Training Realtors in Crime Prevention program in Kenosha, WI
- Idaho's Neighborhood Watch Summit, which was held in Treasure Valley, ID.

The crime prevention and community involvement message has taken root. Over the past 26 years we have proven that solving the problems related to crime, violence, and substance abuse are not simply a job for law enforcement. We are all responsible for the safety and health of our neighborhoods, communities, states, and nation.

The activities of the Crime Prevention Coalition of America are led by its executive committee. Members of the executive committee include leaders of 20 of its member organizations from national, state, and local membership levels. These leaders help identify crime prevention trends and opportunities to focus priorities and activities for the coalition. Additionally, the coalition serves as an advisory body to the National Crime Prevention Council. The coalition provides a critical link to “on the ground” prevention practitioners for the nation’s premiere source of crime prevention information, materials, training, and other resources. The coalition also acts as a critical support for the National Citizens’ Crime Prevention Campaign—the public service advertising campaign that has given us McGruff the Crime Dog®.

A list of members of the coalition’s executive committee can be found on page 2 of this report. At the February 2006 executive committee meeting, Elena Vigil, past president of the Idaho Crime Prevention Association, was approved as the most recent member.

The year 2005 marked the 25th anniversary of McGruff the Crime Dog®, the National Citizens’ Crime Prevention Campaign, and the Crime Prevention Coalition of America. Many communities and organizations across the nation celebrated this anniversary along with their own crime prevention successes. To extend and enrich an impressive record of service for another quarter of a century and beyond, NCPC has developed a new strategic plan under a powerful unifying theme, Safer With McGruff. The plan focuses on the next five years and beyond. The plan is organized around four new strategic goals: (1) to protect children and youth, (2) to partner with government and law enforcement to prevent crime, (3) to promote crime prevention and personal basics, and (4) to respond to emerging crime trends.

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Under the umbrella of Safer With McGruff, NCPC will continue to provide resources, tools, and training to reduce the opportunities for crime. In 2006, through the support of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department Justice, NCPC released Crime Prevention Presentations CD-ROM, Volume 2. These presentations are in a PowerPoint format, and each presentation is designed to educate, increase awareness, and teach prevention strategies. This CD-ROM includes the updated contents of Volume 1, as well as new topics such as bullying prevention, gangs, partnering with faith-based organizations, keeping the elderly safe, school safety and security, and more. These presentations are ideal for coalition members and crime prevention practitioners in the field who are not able to travel to training events due to budget or other constraints.

The executive committee and NCPC encourage organizations involved in crime prevention to consider joining the Crime Prevention Coalition of America. The coalition offers membership to national, state, and community-based organizations from all levels of government, private nonprofit organizations, the business community, the faith community, educational institutions, and other local community coalitions or associations. Membership categories include the following:

- National, federal, and state membership is offered to state crime prevention associations, state criminal justice offices, state attorney general offices, federal agencies, and national nonprofit associations.
- Affiliate membership is offered to entities such as community-based crime prevention organizations, organizations that serve youth, Community Capacity Development Office sites (formerly Executive Office of Weed and Seed sites), municipalities and their police departments, schools, and state-level groups with an interest in crime prevention (such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving and state bar associations).
- Associate membership is offered to business or corporate organizations interested in the full range of coalition activities and publications; associate members are encouraged to provide substantial financial or in-kind resources to NCPC.
- For-profit membership, a new category created and approved by the executive committee in July 2006, is offered to organizations that conduct business to make a profit. To obtain membership in this category, the organization is required to have demonstrated an interest in crime prevention. Membership cannot be seen as an endorsement of any product or company.

From local Neighborhood Watch groups to national nonprofit organizations, the coalition is linking the knowledge and efforts of those involved in the fight to prevent crime.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

The Crime Prevention Coalition of America strengthens the growing crime prevention movement by providing its members with training, networking, and crime prevention resources. All coalition member organizations enjoy access to information on successful crime prevention programs and innovative approaches that demonstrate the effectiveness and value of prevention. These benefits include Internet tools to support crime prevention initiatives and improve the ability to communicate prevention messages.

The coalition's members-only website found on www.ncpc.org includes examples from coalition member organizations about prevention programs and policies, funding sources, and organizational tips. By logging onto this website, coalition members are able to share information and resources with each other, participate in online message boards focused on a variety of prevention topics, and discover the types of resources made available to the coalition by the National Crime Prevention Council. The impetus behind the members-only website is that by constantly sharing information, coalition members can borrow from the best practices that work. Coalition staff continually update the website with the latest information from the field.

Also available on the website the *CPCA Weekly E-bulletin*, which provides timely information, including news and updates about the CPCA and the National Crime Prevention Council, training and events updates, grants and funding opportunities, news from the field (including, national, state, and local information), special offers for licensed products and publications, and highlights of upcoming NCP staff travel and work. From time to time, the *E-bulletin* will include a special column with up-to-date legislative information from GalleryWatch, an online source for real-time legislative information and innovative tools that empower organizations to achieve their legislative goals. The *E-bulletin* is sent to coalition members every Monday and past issues are archived on the members-only website.

Every year, the coalition produces a crime prevention month kit in a 12-month calendar form for its member organizations. This year's kit, *Crime Prevention Month Kit 2006–2007, Partnering With Law Enforcement To Prevent Crime*, is designed to extend resources and enhance efforts through partnering with law enforcement and other organizations. It provides strategies and reproducible materials to help communities work together with law enforcement to prevent and reduce crime. The strategies and program examples for each month illustrate ways to build on traditional crime prevention practices through partnerships. The materials and resources in the kit are intended for use in everyday outreach, newsletters, special events, public service announcements, and targeted media campaigns. The kit is filled with ready-to-go resources and reproducible materials for the law enforcement officer or community partner looking to educate communities on the basics of crime prevention and how people can work together with law enforcement.

Membership in the Crime Prevention Coalition of America also provides an opportunity to help shape and inform the National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign. This campaign has given us McGruff the Crime Dog along with many important and powerful public service ads that have helped inform the public and change attitudes regarding the role of the individual in preventing crime. Often, coalition members are allowed to place local taglines on the ads produced for the campaign. The opportunity for localization encourages the use of critical messages and promotes recognition of the coalition member customizing the ad.

In its role as coordinator of the McGruff campaign, NCP is vested with the legal responsibility for protecting the national symbol of McGruff the Crime Dog. This year, NCP released a new version of *Guidelines for McGruff and Related Marks* with brand

The Crime Prevention Coalition of America strengthens the growing crime prevention movement by providing its members with training, networking, and crime prevention resources.

new images of McGruff on a CD-Rom. The manual describes the permissible uses of the McGruff, Scruff®, “Take A Bite Out Of Crime®,” and “UNETE A La Lucha Contra El Crimen®” service marks and trademarks. It also provides suggestions for creative ways to use McGruff and related marks within the standards set for the protection of the marks.

NCPC has produced a new publication, *Neighborhood Watch Needs You*, for organizers forming a new Watch program or looking to attract new members to an existing one. An active Neighborhood Watch brings safer streets and homes, community spirit, camaraderie with neighbors, and stronger relationships with law enforcement. Neighborhood Watch can also help reduce drug dealing and open-air drug markets, discourage gangs, improve the security of young people, and help older neighbors stay safe from crime. This publication discusses reasons to get involved, the kinds of activities Watch groups do, and how they can help a neighborhood strengthen hometown and homeland security activities in many ways. Resources and examples of successful Watch programs across the country are included in this report.

In 2006, the Virginia Crime Prevention Association (VCPA) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) worked in partnership with NCPC to conduct regional State Leader Roundtables in the East (Bristol, VA) and in the West (Park City, UT). These forums brought together state crime prevention association/coalition directors and representatives for the state administering agencies of the Byrne funds (BJA criminal justice grants). Developed by VCPA under a grant from BJA, these forums were designed to provide maximum interaction between states, allowing them to share information about their work and their struggles in an informal setting with facilitated dialog. NCPC was a contributor to these roundtables and will host two more in 2007 with funding provided by BJA.

From October 3–5, 2007, the National Crime Prevention Council, in partnership with the Crime Prevention Coalition of America and the U.S. Department of Justice, will host the 8th National Conference on Preventing Crime in Atlanta, GA. The pre-conference activities will include the first ever McGruff Golf Classic, which will be held on October 2, 2007. The coalition will also hold a State Leaders’ Forum prior to the National Conference and the golf tournament on October 1, 2007. CPCA members will also receive a discount when registering to attend the conference. This discount will be applied on top of the early bird registration discount, which ends August 1, 2007.

In addition to attending regional and national training events, coalition member organizations can invite National Crime Prevention Council staff to speak at their events. To coordinate NCPC involvement, members should contact the National Crime Prevention Council’s coalition staff to plan the event. Coalition staff can be reached by email at membership@ncpc.org or by telephone at 202-466-6272. Similarly, the National Crime Prevention Council provides strategic planning assistance to coalition members who would like a facilitator to help his or her organization develop a tailored plan of action to improve its capacity to provide crime prevention services. The coalition staff is dedicated to increasing the capacity of each of its members and strengthening the entire network of crime prevention organizations supporting the work of the National Crime Prevention Council.

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The ten action principles can help crime prevention practitioners focus on strategies that meet the crime prevention needs of the 21st century.

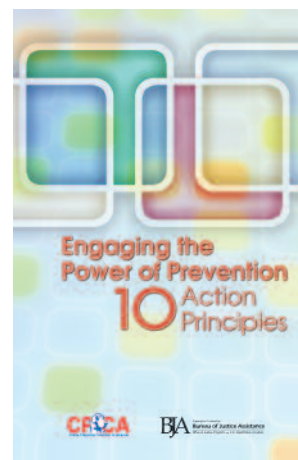
In addition to providing members with training and support for crime prevention organizational development and management, the CPCA also provides members with the ten guiding principles of the coalition. These ten action principles are meant to be much more than statements of belief. They can be the focus for inspiring, organizing, and improving prevention programming in every neighborhood and community. They can be used in at least four different ways at national, state, and local levels: to demonstrate commitment, to promote engagement, to encourage improvement, and to enlist partners. The ten action principles listed below can help crime prevention practitioners focus on strategies that meet the crime prevention needs of the 21st century:

- Preventing crime is everyone's business.
- Preventing crime is more than security.
- Preventing crime is a responsibility of all levels and agencies of government.
- Preventing crime is linked with solving social problems.
- Preventing crime is cost-effective.
- Preventing crime requires a central role in law enforcement.
- Preventing crime requires cooperation and collaboration by all elements of the community.
- Preventing crime requires education.
- Preventing crime requires tailoring to local needs and conditions.
- Preventing crime requires continual evaluation and improvement.

These ten principles are laid out in the publication *Engaging the Power of Prevention: 10 Action Principles*, which can be downloaded free from the CPCA members-only website.

As we look ahead to 2007, the coalition will be developing programs to address the needs of the crime prevention community as well as reinvigorating programs that have proven to be successful in the past. Additionally, the coalition staff will seek ways to strengthen its members' relationships to the coalition and NCPC. To a much greater extent than is described in this annual report, the crime prevention initiatives under way in states and communities across the nation are many and varied. From national organizations, to state agencies and associations, to local community groups, coalition members are taking action to improve the quality of life for themselves and their neighbors. This national crime prevention movement is growing stronger each day. The Crime Prevention Coalition of America is proud to be a leader in this effort.

We invite you and your organization to join this national crime prevention movement. Help make your community a safer, more caring place in which to live. To join the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, or if you have any questions about coalition membership, please contact coalition staff at membership@ncpc.org.





Coalition Members in Action

All crime prevention is local, although many community programs benefit from national support and are part of a larger movement. A panoramic view of crime prevention efforts across America—from national networks to neighborhood rallies—shows citizens filling a variety of roles to exert a profound impact on the safety and livelihood of their towns and cities. Coalition member organizations are catalyzing important actions in every state by implementing new programs and policies, changing attitudes and behaviors, and engaging citizens in efforts to prevent crime, claim ravaged neighborhoods, and strengthen the bonds of community.

The program profiles on the following pages are not intended to be a comprehensive list of effective crime prevention efforts throughout the United States. In fact, they are just the tip of the iceberg. But the ingenuity represented in these snapshots is something worthy of celebration. Read on for examples of how coalition member organizations are building a stronger America—one community at a time—by tackling crime, violence, drug abuse, and the roots of intolerance.

CITIZENS CORPS PROGRAMS

The mission of Citizen Corps is to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, state and local government officials sought to increase opportunities for citizens to play an integral role in protecting their communities and supporting their first responders. Citizen Corps, a vital component of President Bush's USA Freedom Corps initiative, was created to engage citizen volunteers in community-based crime prevention and disaster preparedness efforts. Coordinated nationally by the Department of Homeland Security, Citizen Corps supports a broad range of public education, outreach, training, and volunteer opportunities relating to community safety and security. The Corps maintains five federal charter programs:

- Volunteers in Police Service, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice
- Neighborhood Watch Program, USAonWatch.org., administered by the U.S. Department of Justice
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Medical Reserve Corps, administered by the Department of Health and Human Services
- Fire Corps, administered by the Department of Homeland Security

Citizens Corps (www.citizencorps.gov) recognizes and upholds a variety of crime prevention and disaster preparedness in local communities. See pages 11–17 to read about Citizens Corps programs.

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Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), now in year five, continues to enhance successfully the capacity of state and local law enforcement to use citizen volunteers. VIPS is a Citizen Corps program managed and implemented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice and the White House Office of USA Freedom Corps. VIPS helps local law enforcement agencies train and incorporate community volunteers into agency activities. These volunteers provide support services to law enforcement agencies, allowing them to respond more effectively to homeland security and other policing priorities.

As of June 2006, more than 1,400 registered programs are operating in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico. The VIPS program directory includes

information on seven international law enforcement volunteer programs that have registered. Countries represented include Germany, the Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. More than 88,000 volunteers are working within those registered programs.

The IACP offers many resources to local police departments in support of volunteer recruitment and training. Year five activities focus on developing and delivering research-based products and services to assist state and local law enforcement agencies to establish, expand, or enhance their volunteer programs. Many of these resources are available online through the VIPS website, www.policevolunteers.org. Resources include an online directory of existing law enforcement volunteer programs that potential volunteers can search to connect with a program in their communities; *Volunteer Programs: Enhancing Public Safety by Leveraging Resources*—a free, downloadable guide to assist in the implementation or enhancement of an agency volunteer program; an online clearinghouse of sample documents and forms; *VIPS Info*, a monthly electronic newsletter; and more.

The VIPS program continues to offer training designed for the agency representative responsible for the development and implementation of a volunteer program. The training provides attendees with an understanding of the theories and practices that are related to the development of a law enforcement volunteer program, introduces them to resources offered by the VIPS program, and offers them the knowledge and skills necessary to implement a law enforcement volunteer program. To date, 30 training sessions have been offered to more than 540 representatives.

Examples of successful efforts include the following:

VIPS in Abington Township, Pennsylvania

The Abington Township Police Department created its volunteer program in August 1999 and to date has a total of 317 volunteers. In 2005 the volunteers accounted for 14,558 hours of service in 19 different programs. Programs and activities include Abington's 24-hour relay challenge, the DUI task force, the Police Athletic League, and the Town Watch program. Volunteers also provide clerical support.

Contact: **Dave Rondinelli**, 267-536-1074, drondinelli@abington.org.

VIPS in Coral Springs, Florida

The Coral Springs Police Department established its volunteer program in January 1993 and to date has 95 volunteers. In 2005 the volunteers contributed 12,945 hours of service. The volunteers perform a variety of duties including parking enforcement, community-assisted patrol, fingerprinting, records/data entry, processing records for the Criminal Investigations Identification Unit, and disaster response.

Contact: **Kim Sanecki**, 954-346-4430, kms@coralsprings.org.

VIPS in Pasadena, California

The Pasadena Police Department recruits graduates of its Citizens' Police Academy as volunteers to serve in a number of capacities within the department. Its 150 volunteers are integrated into most areas of police operations, in five distinct programs: Chaplains, Citizens Assisting Pasadena Police (CAPP), Equestrians, General Volunteers, and the Youth

Accountability Board. Volunteers may also participate in the Explorer Post or become a reserve officer.

Contact: Officer Donna Cayson, 626-744-7652, dcayson@cityofpasadena.net.

VIPS in Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, Louisiana

The Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office (LPSO) operates a three-level reserve/volunteer program including POST certified reserve deputies, intermediate trained deputies, and auxiliary deputies. Reserves assist in all sections of the sheriff's office including patrol, police social services, range safety, hunter's education, and mounted, motorcycle, and water patrol. In the days and weeks following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the reserves assisted in providing security at shelters in their own neighborhoods, assisted with patrols, cooked and delivered hot meals to deputies working 12-hour shifts, and assisted in escorting evacuees back to their homes to retrieve personal items.

The LPSO also sponsors an Explorer Post that performs many community service projects. The volunteer program was established in 1991 and contributed 7,238 hours of service in 2005. To date they have 105 volunteers.

Contact: Sergeant Lafate Elliott Day, Jr., 985-532-4327, lafate-day@lpsos.net.

VIPS in Alvin, Texas

The Alvin Police Department started its Senior Citizen Volunteer program in 1991. This program allows volunteers who are disabled or retired the chance to give back to their communities by handling paperwork, records, and completing assignments or other administrative tasks for the department's records, criminal investigation, and crime victim programs.

The police department created its Are You Okay? program in 1992. This program uses volunteers to make daily phone calls to the elderly and homebound in the community ensuring their safety by verbally checking in. The program also distributes food, fans in the summer, blankets and heaters in the winter, and fire alarms, and coordinates volunteer groups to clean and provide general lawn services for the elderly and homebound.

In 1995, the police department created the Volunteer Handicapped Parking program. This program uses volunteers, many of them handicapped, to document handicapped parking violations. This is done by photographing the violation, completing the appropriate paperwork, and signing a complaint against violators. The volunteers document the parking violations during their routine activities around town.

Contact: Chief Mike Merkel, 281-585-7101, mmerkel@apd.cityofalvin.com.



VIPS in Bellevue, Washington

The Bellevue Police Department uses volunteers in its Citizens and Police in Partnership program. The program is designed to free up and support both sworn and civilian staff, allowing them to perform their essential law enforcement functions and to expand the range of services that can be provided to the community. Volunteers work in all areas of the department performing various tasks. Such tasks include clerical/administrative assistance, parking enforcement, and citizen patrols. The program was created in 1994 and to date has 65 volunteers.

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VIPS in Orem, Utah

The Orem Utah Department of Public Safety's Volunteers in Public Safety (VIPS) program is designed to enhance the overall efficiency of the agency to assist the public and to reduce and solve crime. The VIPS patrol division works alongside sworn officers performing non-hazardous police services to the community of Orem.

The volunteers do a multitude of activities such as responding to stranded motorists; directing traffic at fire and accident scenes; and conducting neighborhood patrols, vacation checks, and minor investigations. The VIPS also helps to educate the public on unacceptable behavior such as parking in a handicapped spot without a valid permit or having an expired car registration. They also deal with abandoned vehicles, special enforcement, and speed surveys. The program was created 2001 and to date has 16 volunteers.

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VIPS in Boulder, Colorado

The Boulder Police Department has approximately 80 volunteers who work in a variety of capacities within the community. Volunteers are victim advocates, accessible parking team members, records assistants, and investigations aides. Volunteers also work in community services, crime analysis, staff services, and at the community police centers.

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Neighborhood Watch

The national Neighborhood Watch program has been dedicated to the prevention and reduction of crime at the neighborhood level for over 30 years. In recent years, the National Sheriffs' Association, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, also has expanded and enhanced the program to incorporate terrorism awareness, emergency preparedness, and emergency-response training into its mission. An expanded mission has given way to a new title for the national program—USAonWatch. Time-tested practices such as "eyes-and-ears" training and target-hardening techniques are at the core of the program. As Watch groups continue to grow, the roles of citizens have become more multifaceted and tailored to local needs. Currently, there are more than 20,000 Watch groups throughout America as well as programs in more than seven countries.

Communities have realized that partnering with law enforcement can help make their neighborhoods more secure and less fearful of any event.

As a partner of Citizen Corps and thereby USA Freedom Corps, Neighborhood Watch—USAonWatch brings citizens and law enforcement together to engage all Americans in homeland security through volunteerism and preparedness.

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Reducing Crime in Rancho Palos Verdes, California

The efforts of the Rancho Palos Verdes (CA) Neighborhood Watch have significantly reduced crime in the community. The reason: active participation by 402 block captains, 47 area coordinators, and over 1,200 block assistants. The group works to educate and develop activities that encourage residents to report suspicious activities and regularly distributes information through its email network of over 6,000 members. Due to the success of the Neighborhood Watch email distribution, the group has scaled back from four annual newsletters to two, which go to around 9,000 homes.

Over the past two years, the group has been working hard to develop a program that would assist emergency personnel and residents before, during, and after a disaster. The group created an emergency preparedness program that parallels the Neighborhood Watch program. The preparedness program emphasizes what to do and not do during a disaster, how to communicate without phones, and how to develop and use resources and skills of area residents. Each block is organized into three teams to effectively respond to a disaster: search and rescue, special needs (medical, child care, and dual language) and communication. The group works by the simple premise of encouraging neighbors to work together as a team to promote safety, a high quality of life, and friendly neighborhoods.

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Making Neighborhood Watch a Priority

Neighborhood Watch is a number one priority for the Chatham County (NC) Sheriff's Office located in Pittsboro, where Neighborhood Watch programs have traditionally focused on property crime prevention. After assessing the needs of the community, Sheriff Webster felt community members needed more than information on burglary prevention. He adopted a crime prevention philosophy of sending as many deputies as possible into the community and getting more crime prevention information into the hands of residents. The sheriff's



office also expanded the traditional Neighborhood Watch program to include drug awareness, gang awareness, workplace violence prevention, and security check surveys.

Over the last two years, the number of reported property crimes has fallen more than 25 percent and the percentage of stolen property recovered has increased to 40 percent. The sheriff's office continues to seek out ways to provide more resources to the citizens it serves.

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Engaging the Business Community in City Watch

City Watch, an extension of the Neighborhood Watch program, has been added by the Mansfield Public Safety Department in Texas to its catalog of programs. Designed to help the business community and law enforcement develop a partnership to better target current crime trends and reduce opportunities for criminals, the program is made up of roughly 20 businesses throughout the city. As with Neighborhood Watch, the core of the City Watch program lies in effective communication. One means of communication is a notification system that is operated in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. The system is used to distribute crime alerts to each participating business. Following a robbery or other crime-related incident involving a business, law enforcement notifies the Chamber of Commerce via email without revealing the business's identity. The Chamber then immediately faxes or emails the information directly to all Chamber of Commerce members. Members of the business community and law enforcement meet quarterly to discuss crime trends in the area and examine possible solutions. These meetings also provide business owners and employees with networking opportunities to keep their businesses safer. In the future, the Mansfield Public Safety Department plans to focus on the prevention of auto theft and burglary, crimes that currently top the city's crime statistics.

Contact: **Officer Ducket**, Mansfield Public Safety Department, 817-473-0211

Turning Community Pride Into Crime Prevention

Participants in the Kenansville Crime Watch Group in Florida do more than participate in crime prevention activities. They use the Crime Watch organization to enhance their sense of community. Since the group formed in 2000, it has been a consistent organization with a distinctive flair for crime prevention that also maintains an exemplary sense of community. Members treat the sheriff's office as extended family and consider law enforcement an equal partner in community issues. After every meeting, Crime Watch participants hold a cookout event where they enjoy community fellowship. This tradition attracts approximately 60 people to each meeting. The group also participates in a Welcome Wagon program to greet new members of the community and introduce them to the Neighborhood Watch program. Group members try to preserve their community's sense of history by purchasing and restoring Kenansville area landmarks. So far they have obtained a schoolhouse, hotel, and the Kenansville Post Office.

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Taking a Stand Against Crime

In the spring of 2003, residents of the Shenandoah Park neighborhood in St. Charles County, Missouri, decided they were going to do something about the crime in their community. Property damage, burglaries, and suspicious residences under surveillance by the local drug task force prompted many neighbors to unite in an effort to clean up their neighborhood. They conducted a Neighborhood Watch meeting and were amazed to discover the talents and resources available right in their own community. Those willing to help out included a web designer, graphic artist, sign construction expert, firefighter, police officer, and printer. Now some two and a half years later, the list of accomplishments is tremendous: new street signs, a new lighted and landscaped entrance sign, a monthly newsletter for all neighborhood residents, a neighborhood website, an annual garage sale and barbecue, a Halloween parade, a recycling program, and an active neighborhood patrol. Many residents feel their neighborhood is safer because they got to know each other through Neighborhood Watch events.

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NATIONAL PROGRAMS

McGruff Club: Engaging Children in Crime Prevention

For more than 25 years, McGruff the Crime Dog has been educating America on preventing crime and staying safe. Now McGruff will engage children ages six to ten in a new way through McGruff Club, a program created by the National Crime Prevention Council to educate children on what they can do to stay safe, prevent crime and violence in their communities, and participate in age-appropriate projects designed to make their communities safer. The McGruff Club has been piloted at ten Boys & Girls Clubs across the country.

The goals of McGruff Club are to

- Educate children about ways they can ensure their personal safety and security
- Engage children in service projects designed to make their communities safer
- Raise awareness among children of McGruff as a trusted source of information on how to stay safe from crime
- Educate children about what they can do to prevent crime and violence in their communities
- Foster positive relationships among children, law enforcement officers, and other community members



McGruff Club members meet once a week for 45 minutes. During the meetings, children identify safety concerns, learn how to stay safe, engage in service projects, and reflect upon and celebrate their projects. All children in McGruff Club explore the topics of safe and unsafe neighborhoods, conflict management, bullying, and dangerous situations in the neighborhood. Individual clubs may address additional issues based on the concerns of the children, which may include diversity, Internet safety, guns and other weapons, and home safety. Children who participate in McGruff Club receive a membership kit that includes a welcome letter from McGruff, a McGruff Club membership card, a McGruff Club drawstring backpack, activity sheets, and other McGruff the Crime Dog items. Club members also receive exclusive access to McGruff Club web pages, featuring special games and activities. Adults who facilitate McGruff Club receive a kit containing various publications and resources from the National Crime Prevention Council. The kit provides facilitators with the information they need to lead McGruff Club activities and engage children in service projects. Through McGruff Club, children will become engaged in their community and learn about safety while having fun.

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Girl Scouts Pave the Way to Anti-violence

P.A.V.E. the Way (Project Anti-Violence Education) contributes to girls' healthy development by educating them about ways to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of a crime and/or a perpetrator of violent behavior. P.A.V.E. the Way began in 2000 with a five million dollar grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. In 2004, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to continue with P.A.V.E. the Way. The grant is one of three grants awarded to GSUSA (along with Girl Scouts Beyond Bars and Girl Scouting in Detention Centers) by the U.S. Department of Justice. In 2006, 26 Girl Scout councils were awarded P.A.V.E. the Way grants in 20 states across the country and in Germany, as part of the USA Girl Scouts Overseas program. These 26 councils have designed their P.A.V.E. the Way programming around four main topics—Internet safety, bullying prevention/intervention, gang prevention, and crime prevention.

At Girl Scouts Connecticut Trails Council, several troops meet at police stations in New Haven to work with officers on youth-oriented policing programs. At Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, the manager of child advocacy (and former warden of a prerelease facility) visits middle and elementary schools in Baltimore to speak directly to the issue of incarceration. She explains what life is like behind bars and about the high incidence of violence inside prisons. At Land of Lincoln Council in Illinois, P.A.V.E. the Way includes sessions with a Springfield police officer who provides the girls with strategies they can employ to help themselves avoid becoming victims of crime and about how involvement in criminal behavior can adversely affect their futures.

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National Safe Place: Where Kids Get Help...FAST

Any youth in crisis can access immediate help and safety at one of the more than 15,000 locations displaying the diamond shaped, yellow and black Safe Place sign. The Safe Place program began in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1983 as an outreach effort of the YMCA Shelter House and has since expanded to 40 states. Safe Place is a prevention and intervention program. Each year thousands of young people learn about the dangers of running away or trying to resolve difficult, threatening situations on their own. Through the network of Safe Place locations, youth at risk of abuse, neglect, or serious family problems are offered shelter and support services before their situation escalates beyond their control.



Safe Place involves the entire community in providing safe havens and resources for youth in crisis. Each participating community has a network of Safe Place sites such as youth-friendly fast food restaurants, convenience stores, and movie theatres. Additionally, fire stations, libraries, Boys & Girls Clubs, and YMCAs are designated Safe Place locations. In a growing number of communities, the local transit system takes part by designating buses as mobile Safe Place sites.

When a youth in crisis walks into a designated Safe Place location, an employee meets with him or her and finds a comfortable place for the youth to wait until the Safe Place agency is contacted. Within about 30 minutes, a Safe Place volunteer or staff member will arrive to speak with the youth. If counseling or residential services are necessary, the youth is taken to the Safe Place shelter. A Safe Place staff member immediately notifies the youth's family that the youth is safe and provides the help and professional referrals that youth and families need to resolve their problems.

Safe Place creates awareness regarding issues experienced by at-risk youth through the display of the Safe Place symbol in over 700 communities across the country. As customers enter their neighborhood grocery stores or fast food restaurants, the Safe Place sign is a reminder that young people in their community may become victims of abuse and other serious difficulties. Additionally, Safe Place is a program that focuses on crime prevention. For example, the Sanctuary Youth Shelter in Fresno, California, is currently working with the City of Orange Cove (one of the poorest communities in Central California) on a new initiative with the sheriff's department to identify Safe Place sites along traveled school paths. This project will make it possible for youth to seek help, thus lessening the potential for them to become victims of predators or similar undesirable situations.

During 2006, National Safe Place provided school resource officers in every Safe Place community with a generous supply of *Talk...Don't Run* brochures. The brochure focuses on the importance of communication, specific tips for teens, and warning signs that parents should recognize indicating their teen may need help.

Law enforcement organizations across the country are provided with a video presentation that introduces personnel to Safe Place and presents the resources it offers as a possible alternative to a youth detention center or similar placement. Law enforcement provides transportation from Safe Place locations to the shelter in Fresno, California; Jacksonville, Florida; and Gadsden, Alabama.

Contact

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Neighborhood Watch Toolkit

For more than 30 years, Neighborhood Watch has helped citizens and law enforcement work together to protect property, reduce crime, and secure the homeland. In response to President Bush's call to involve more Americans in neighborhood safety and security, the National Sheriffs' Association in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice has produced a new *Neighborhood Watch Toolkit*. The toolkit provides numerous resources for law enforcement and community members working with Neighborhood Watch groups—whether starting, revitalizing, or enhancing existing programs.

The new *Neighborhood Watch Toolkit* enhances Neighborhood Watch activities by providing formal training for law enforcement, block captains, and community volunteers. The toolkit provides information and training on a wide variety of public and community safety-based topics, including how to manage volunteers, create partnerships, and conduct effective meetings. In addition, there are specialized presentations for area coordinators and block captains, and informative community-based presentations that are supplemented by numerous action-oriented Neighborhood Watch tools. The tools, templates, and forms can be easily replicated or tailored to meet the individual needs of a local Neighborhood Watch organization.

The National Sheriffs' Association is conducting training sessions across the country to familiarize law enforcement and community members with the *Neighborhood Watch Toolkit*. The training provides an overview of the curriculum and the tools contained in the toolkit. It is applicable to participants with all levels of Neighborhood Watch experience.

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Crime Prevention for Houses of Worship

In recent years, churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques have all experienced an increase in crime. No faith or denomination remains unaffected. Religious communities have been forced to embrace crime prevention measures employed by the private security industry to ensure the safety and protection of their facilities and congregation.

The ASIS International Crime and Loss Prevention Council has created a guide that recommends practices for enhancing the security of houses of worship. The council prepared a working draft that was then peer-reviewed by security experts to ensure comprehensiveness. The guide outlines best practices for improving security for a religious facility. It has sections on such physical security basics as perimeter and building protection, as well as sections on financial asset protection, child care security, and business continuity. Special event planning and overseas travel are also addressed. The format is in plain English and designed to be understood and applicable for the public. The suggestions are also cost effective and easily employed. The guide is available in published form or online. To download a free copy of the guide, log on to the ASIS website: www.asisonline.org.

ASIS International, a not-for-profit organization for security professionals founded in 1955, disseminates information and educational materials to enhance security knowledge, practice, and performance. The Crime and Loss Prevention Council establishes and sustains relationships for the common purpose of preventing crime, as well as encourages the exchange of effective security concepts and other information between law enforcement, private security, and ASIS.

Contact

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Preventing Youth Violence

UNITY (Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth Through Violence Prevention) is a five-year cooperative agreement funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and designed to maximize existing government and community resources for the long-term sustainability of youth violence prevention. Every city has effective programs, committed people, and resources allocated to coordination, staffing, and programs. Too often they fail to forge a coherent strategy to ensure the best use of what exists. Many cities could benefit from increased accountability, better coordination, and a fundamental understanding that youth violence, in all its forms, is preventable.

UNITY brings together representatives of the nation's largest cities, violence prevention leaders, and youth to foster a national strategy that supports and sustains violence prevention in large cities. The UNITY approach stresses the need for collaboration, multi-leveled approaches, and the importance of addressing risk and protective factors in youth violence prevention strategies. UNITY emphasizes the need for cities to develop and implement a coherent approach to preventing multiple forms of youth violence and provides them with an effective, replicable methodology for shaping this approach.

UNITY provides tools, training, and technical assistance that cities are using to build their capacity to effectively address youth violence. For example, the UNITY Roadmap delineates the essential elements that cities should have in place for effective youth violence prevention. Political support, evaluation and research, community engagement, and prevention programming are among some of the elements.



UNITY's lead partners are Prevention Institute, Billie Weiss of the Southern California Injury Prevention Research Center at UCLA, and Deborah Prothrow-Stith of the Harvard School of Public Health. UNITY's National Consortium acts as the primary coordinating body providing advice and leadership to advance thoughtful and coherent youth violence prevention efforts in the United States. Current consortium members include the National Crime Prevention Council, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, National League of Cities, and the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association. The consortium also includes local participants including representatives from community-based organizations, education, public health, law enforcement, justice, mayoral appointees, and other elected officials.

Based in Oakland, California, Prevention Institute is a national nonprofit dedicated to improving community health and well-being by building momentum for effective primary prevention. The institute's work is characterized by a strong commitment to community participation and promotion of equitable health outcomes among all social and economic groups.

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Using Nature To Build Resilience in Kids

The goal of Hooked on Nature is to raise awareness that contact with nature enhances the emotional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual health of children while decreasing anxiety, depression, bullying, and destructive decision-making. This nationwide program's underlying philosophy is that attaching kids early and well to nature is effective prevention in all areas, including crime prevention. From building community gardens to participating in environmental education activities, children and youth greatly benefit when

nature is part of their daily routines according to research cited on the program's website, www.hookedonnature.org.

Hooked on Nature is involved in many collaborative efforts to involve children with nature. One such collaboration is with the I Have a Dream Foundation in Boulder County, Colorado, which works to motivate and empower children from low-income communities to reach their education and career goals by providing a long-term program of mentoring, tutoring and enrichment, and tuition assistance for higher education. Hooked on Nature is working to develop a public relations campaign and mentor training program to increase the number of mentors and overall community support.

Hooked on Nature is also collaborating with Project Cornerstone, a countywide effort in Santa Clara, California, designed to mobilize the entire community—individuals, businesses, community organizations, schools and government—to shift from reacting to children and youth as problems to connecting with them so they thrive. Hooked on Nature and Project Cornerstone are working together on a joint messaging campaign linking nature activities to the building of developmental assets (e.g., positive relationships, opportunities, values, and skills) that young people need to become caring and responsible adults.

Hooked on Nature offers trainings, community workshops, and resources such as activity books and DVDs for adults who want to integrate nature into their classrooms, after-school programs, mentor training, and prevention/treatment programs.

Contact

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Making an Impact on Shoplifting

There are an estimated 550,000 shoplifting incidents per day in the United States, costing retailers over one million dollars per hour. Shoplifting offenders are caught once in every 49 times they steal and prosecuted just once in every 100 times they steal. Furthermore, one in four youth report having engaged in shoplifting before 12 to 16 years of age. Shoplifting is on the rise with no foreseeable downturn. Because shoplifting has become a social and economic issue that steals from all members of the community, the National Association for Shoplifting Prevention (NASP) is working to make these and other new prevention programs available to more community stakeholders as part of an overarching action plan to change the way our nation regards, prevents, and responds to shoplifting.

To provide communities with local support, earlier this year NASP launched the National Shoplifting Prevention Coalition, which brings together members of the retail, justice, crime prevention, law enforcement, and school communities in an alliance to address shoplifting and deliver needed programs and services. The coalition encourages individual participation, coordinates community resources, and maintains the focus to sustain a real and lasting impact on preventing shoplifting. Key prevention initiatives of the coalition include the following:

- The Honest to Goodness project (H2G), a series of youth shoplifting prevention and character-building programs designed to reduce the number of children who become

involved in shoplifting and increase the number of youth who become honest consumers and trustworthy employees in the future. In a manner similar to the campaigns to prevent juvenile smoking, alcohol, and drug abuse, H2G focuses on the issue of shoplifting and establishes it as an example of how maintaining the most basic standards of honesty leads to future goodness. Through the H2G Speakers' Bureau, crime prevention practitioners—along with volunteers from all sectors of the community—can deliver this series of age-appropriate multimedia programs to their community.

- Re-Directed Release, an initiative that offers the retail loss prevention community a way to provide a substantive action when prosecution is not possible. With NASP education programs reporting less than a three percent recidivism rate, this initiative is a positive middle ground between the burden prosecution often places on community resources and the futility of the “warn and release” approach.

Other programs and services include a media campaign to educate the public about the harmful effects of shoplifting on youth, families, and communities; programs for use by the criminal and juvenile justice system; shoplifter research; community training programs; and self-help and support services for people already caught up in the problem who want to stop.

Contact

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Uniting Against Insurance Fraud

Insurance fraud steals more than \$80 billion a year from consumers and raises everyone's insurance premiums. But additional damage is done to the fabric of people's lives. Insurance swindlers steal people's life savings, cost them jobs, and threaten their health. Scams also tear apart families, and victims often struggle with despair for years. Unique among fraud-fighting groups, the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud is a national alliance of consumer groups, insurance companies, and government agencies. A key part of the coalition's public outreach strategy is to alert consumers about swindles and put a human face on this financial crime through effective storytelling. The coalition's website (www.InsuranceFraud.org) is a core vehicle for both approaches. The website serves as a national online center of fraud information and features the following:

- Insurance Fraud Hall of Shame. The coalition dishonors each year's most brazen swindlers. A story on each winner is posted in an online “cellblock.”
- Fraud Case of the Month. An especially egregious scammer is highlighted on the homepage each month.
- Scam alerts. A library of alerts is posted on schemes such as airbag swindles and fake health insurance.

- Fraud hotlines. Toll-free hotlines to all state fraud bureaus, plus Medicare and Medicaid, are posted.
- Daily fraud news. To alert visitors about scams and trends around the United States, the coalition posts news stories on its homepage daily.
- En Español. Much of the consumer section is posted in Spanish.

The coalition also places numerous fraud stories with news media and expands its reach with other programs such as consumer columns (pre-prepared newspaper, radio, and TV stories sent to smaller news outlets around the United States) and a weekly e-newsletter emailed to several thousand law enforcement, consumer groups, investigators, and others.

Contact

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Providing Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance in Crime Prevention

The State Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance (TA) program, funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, is designed to strengthen and institutionalize crime prevention within a state structure and to enhance statewide leadership to benefit local initiatives. The program helps solve problems, promotes information exchange, and delivers technical assistance through an interactive approach. It will also assist states in building or enhancing a crime prevention entity, institutionalizing prevention strategies and policies to serve the needs of the states' communities.

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) will provide each state one-on-one technical assistance using experienced peers from other states to target specific needs. As each need is addressed, NCPC staff will produce concrete action plans that yield measurable results. Each action plan is developed using the expertise of seasoned professionals in the crime prevention field. The 2005 sites chosen were: Mississippi, Montana, New York, Rhode Island, and Nevada. In 2006 two sites were added, Illinois and Georgia.

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STATE PROGRAMS

Strengthening California's Response to Domestic Violence

For the past 15 years, California has enacted laws to strengthen the ability of local criminal justice systems to hold batterers accountable and to protect victims, but little study has been done to evaluate the effectiveness of these laws. In December 2003, the



California Attorney General, through his Crime and Violence Prevention Center (CVPC), created a task force on local criminal justice response to domestic violence to examine how well California is carrying out these responsibilities. The 26-member task force focused its fact-finding efforts primarily on ten counties chosen to achieve diversity in location and urban/rural makeup.

The task force conducted nearly 300 interviews with practitioners, examined hundreds of documents, and heard testimony from 69 witnesses at six public hearings throughout the state. After 18 months of diligent work, in July 2005 the task force issued its final report, *Keeping the Promise:*

Victim Safety and Batterer Accountability, which revealed weaknesses in the way many agencies and judges deal with domestic violence. It found examples of failure to comply with the law, enforce the law, respond to domestic violence victims, and work in collaboration. At the same time, the task force found that many members of the criminal justice system are eager to strengthen California's response against this vicious and deadly menace. It discovered a number of promising practices and saw firsthand how much can be accomplished when there is strong local leadership and cooperation among agencies. Some of the major issues addressed in the task force report include

- Restraining orders. In the task force's survey, 17 criminal courts acknowledged that they were not imposing Criminal Protective Orders (CPOs) on all required domestic violence defendants, and/or that they had no reliable procedure for entering these orders, as required, in the statewide Department of Justice database. The report recommended that courts carry out the law: criminal courts must impose CPOs when sentencing domestic violence offenders to probation and ensure that the orders are recorded in the database.
- Firearm prohibitions. The task force discovered that firearm prohibitions, which must be included in all restraining orders, are rarely enforced. The task force recommended that law enforcement and prosecutors in each county adopt procedures to determine whether batterers subject to CPOs and family court restraining orders possess firearms, and then seize those weapons and prosecute the batterers.
- Holding batterers accountable. The task force found that batterers have a dismal record of completing their 52-week batterer programs. It recommended that each county enforce a consistent policy regarding legally permissible absences from batterer intervention programs and immediate consequences, including arrest, for absences.

The report has led to legislative changes and changes in policies at the local level, as well as stronger collaboratives and improved communication. CVPC staff members continue to make presentations on the findings of the task force and help local agencies engage in dialogue about improving their systems response. The full report is available at www.safestate.org/domesticviolence.

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National Conference on Preventing Crime in the Black Community

The National Conference on Preventing Crime in the Black Community is a collaborative effort sponsored by the Attorneys General of Florida and Georgia to address issues such as the overrepresentation of minorities in the criminal justice system and the often adversarial relationship between the community and law enforcement in inner-city neighborhoods. This annual conference, now in its 21st year, highlights successful programs and promotes an exchange of positive ideas on working effectively in the Black community. Special attention is directed toward initiatives to curb youth violence, protect victims of crime, and prevent crime in the Black community. The conference also provides a unique opportunity for participants to share their views and experiences on relevant issues in the African American community.

The conference attracts about 2,000–2,500 participants each year from about 27 different states in the United States as well as Canada, Haiti, Colombia, and Jamaica. Participants represent law enforcement, victim services professionals, juvenile justice and correction professionals, local and state government officials, schools, church and community leaders, crime prevention practitioners, and other interested citizens from the public. There is also a special track of workshops and sessions specifically designed for the 600-plus teens who attend the conference. The conference has continued to attract a diverse group of national partners, such as the National Crime Prevention Council, and both the Office for Victims of Crime and Bureau of Justice Assistance within the United States Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs. It has also received unprecedented support within the State of Florida from the Department of Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Law Enforcement, and the Department of Corrections.

The conference is part of the Crime in the Black Community program that is housed in the Bureau of Criminal Justice Programs, Office of Florida Attorney General Charlie Crist. It is an outgrowth of the relationship between the Florida Attorney General's Office and the Florida Consortium of Urban Leagues. The conference, as well as several other bureau initiatives, is managed and implemented through another bureau program, the Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute.

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Kentucky's 9-1-1 Education for Children Project

Second-grade children in Kentucky are learning about the 9-1-1 services available to them where they live, thanks to a partnership of several state agencies. The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security (KOHS) and the Kentucky Office of the 9-1-1 Coordinator (an agency administratively attached to KOHS) have partnered with the state's Department of Education and Kentucky Center for School Safety to create Kentucky's 9-1-1 Education for Children project. This project sends trained volunteers into second-grade classrooms in schools across the state to deliver a lively 30-minute curriculum on the importance and benefits of 9-1-1. Kentucky's 9-1-1 Education for Children project has three goals: to educate students about the 9-1-1 services available to them in their area, to help students distinguish between the appropriate and inappropriate times to dial 9-1-1, and to reinforce 9-1-1 to students until dialing 9-1-1 becomes an automatic response for emergencies. The curriculum also emphasizes the importance of memorizing addresses and telephone numbers and trusting the 9-1-1 operator. Children who participate receive a "goody bag" consisting of a 9-1-1 coloring book and crayons.

The project began in 2005, when the Office of the 9-1-1 Coordinator, in partnership with the Department of Education, distributed an email survey of all public schools in the Commonwealth. Approximately 213 elementary schools responded to the survey. Of the 213 schools that responded, only 16 had existing 9-1-1 education programs, accounting for only 7.5 percent of students. The result of this survey was the creation of Kentucky's 9-1-1 Education for Children project. During Phase 1, August 2006 to May 2007, approximately 20 percent of the 49,000 second-graders in Kentucky will be educated on the importance of 9-1-1.

A series of train-the-trainer sessions was held in late July 2006 in six regions across the state. A database of trainers has been created and includes 9-1-1 operators, the first responder community, and volunteers from the Citizen Awareness and Outreach program. When a request is made to the Office of the 9-1-1 Coordinator, a trainer will be selected. All supplies are stored at regional locations across the Commonwealth. Teachers also have the option of obtaining the packet and presenting the curriculum themselves.

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Creating Safer Places in Virginia

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is part of a collaborative effort to make Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and the creation of safer places a priority in Virginia. CPTED is based on a theory that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and the fear of crime. DCJS helps promote CPTED in Virginia by supporting the Virginia Crime Prevention Association (VCPA), which conducts classes in basic CPTED. DCJS also supports the Virginia CPTED committee, which was created in 2001, by providing a representative on the committee and providing resources. DCJS has trained over 300 people in "CPTED

and Schools,” including police officers, school officials, school resource officers, landscape architects, and architects. In partnership with VCPA and the Virginia CPTED committee, DCJS created and issued a *Safety by Design: Creating a Safer Environment in Virginia* brochure. In 2005 the Virginia CPTED committee hosted a roundtable and the Safer By Design coalition was formed. The coalition consists of 29 members representing the disciplines of law enforcement, planning, architecture, landscape architecture, and fire protection. DCJS is a member organization of the coalition, along with the Virginia Main Street program, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Crime Prevention Council, the International CPTED Association, and The Allstate Foundation.

In recent months, the faith-based organizations in Virginia have requested security assessments and assistance in security planning for events and possible criminal attacks. DCJS conducted one assessment to use as a model. This assessment will aid the law enforcement community in identifying the time and personnel needed to conduct a thorough assessment. Partnering with the Virginia Department of Transportation, DCJS determined that the most effective way to assist was to train members of the faith-based community and prepared a new training curriculum to educate the faith-based community in methods of addressing the physical environment and preparing security plans, policies, and procedures.

Currently, DCJS is preparing a statewide survey to measure the effectiveness of crime prevention in Virginia. This survey and its findings should be complete by the fall of 2007.

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The American Prosecutors Research Institute

The American Prosecutors Research Institute (APRI) was founded in 1984 by the National District Attorneys Association to serve as a nonprofit research and program development resource for prosecutors at all levels of government. APRI's research focuses on enhancing prosecutors' ability to design and implement effective internal and external policies, procedures, and programs, improving their overall capacity for serving their communities. The following three programs are from APRI.

Educating Kids About Gun Violence (EKG). Educating Kids About Gun Violence is a youth gun violence education and prevention program that works to prevent youth gun violence by educating students about the legal, medical, and emotional consequences of youth gun possession and related gun violence, as well as encouraging young people to consider options and choices available to them in situations involving guns.



EKG is a two-hour, interactive classroom presentation by an EKG team consisting of a police officer/sheriff's deputy, a prosecuting attorney, and a fire department/medical professional. Through the use of videos, photographs, slides, case scenarios, personal stories, and small group discussion, the team educates the students about the legal, medical, and emotional consequences of gun possession and related violence. The curriculum encourages young people to consider the options available to them in situations involving guns. Partners in the EKG effort include Marion County Prosecutor's Office (IN), Indianapolis Police Department, Indiana Department of Education, and other agencies within Marion County.

The EKG program was originally developed under the name Options, Choices, and Consequences (OCC) in Seattle. From OCC, Gun-violence Information For Teens was designed and used in Sacramento, CA. It was then developed into the Educating Kids About Gun-violence program for Indianapolis by the community prosecution division of the Marion County Prosecutor's Office. Through a generous grant from Indiana Project Safe Neighborhoods and the hard work of the Agency for Instructional Technology, EKG has undergone some technological upgrades and evolved into the program that it is today.

The Joshua Project. In response to a 30 percent increase in fatal and nonfatal shootings in Detroit during the first half of 2004 compared to the same period in 2003, a pilot program called the Joshua Project was created to reduce the number of shootings in the third precinct, currently one-half of the southwest district. Fully implemented in January 2005, the Joshua Project is modeled on similar programs in Boston, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, and several other cities that control gun violence by raising the stakes for groups at the highest risk of committing or becoming victims of a shooting. These groups may be traditional gangs or loose organizations of criminally active individuals. Participating partners are the Michigan Department of the Attorney General, the Detroit Police Department, the Michigan Department of Corrections, and the community.

The Joshua Project employs a zero-tolerance policy when a gang or a group member in the southwest district commits gun violence. Use of a gun by any member thus results in strict and sustained law enforcement attention for everyone in the group. The zero-tolerance policy does not replace day-to-day law enforcement activities but instead directs additional attention to illegal behavior by group members. The Joshua Project also seeks to deter gun violence by increased monitoring of probationers and parolees through the use of unscheduled home visits and mandatory call-in meetings. To date 2,151 former offenders have been called in and 2,894 home checks have been conducted. These efforts proactively intervene in a high-risk former offender's life before a gun is used in a crime.

Community involvement is an integral component of the Joshua Project. Assistant Attorneys General meet monthly with community organizations to seek the community's input on strategies to reduce gun violence. Representatives from community organizations attend call-in meetings for offenders and discuss the programs available and where to find support if needed. For example, the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization in southwest Detroit, attends call-in meetings and offers educational assistance, job readiness skills, and substance abuse counseling. Counseling for youth, adults, and their families focuses on such issues as anger management, communi-

cation skills, and positive behavior modification. This gives former offenders the opportunity to explore alternatives to continued violence.

In the Joshua Project's first year of operation, gun-related homicides were reduced 35 percent and nonfatal shootings were reduced 29 percent when compared to the previous year. In comparison, these crimes decreased by only one percent in the rest of Detroit. The reductions achieved by the project in 2005 were the largest of any precinct in Detroit. During the past 17 months, nonfatal shootings have decreased by 32 percent through May 2006 when compared to the same time period before implementation. Similarly, gun-related homicides have decreased by 38 percent. In comparison, these gun crimes have continued at almost the same rate in the rest of Detroit. In the remaining precincts of the city, nonfatal shootings declined by only one percent and gun-related homicides declined by only five percent during the same time frame.

Milwaukee County District Attorney's Community Prosecution Unit. Community prosecution is a pro-active crime-fighting collaborative involving the district attorney's office, law enforcement and other government agencies; community-based organizations; and citizens in a defined target area. The Milwaukee County District Attorney's Community Prosecution Unit has provided prosecutors and police the ability and opportunity to work more closely with citizens and law enforcement partners in creating safer communities through crime prevention.

The specific goal of the program is to reduce crime and enhance the quality of life for every citizen by focusing and organizing resources from the Milwaukee Police Department, the Department of Corrections, the Sheriff's Department, the city attorney, and the community prosecutor into a "target team" within each respective police district or suburban police department. The program was designed to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community. The attorneys worked with the police and the community organization to solve quality-of-life issues in high crime, high drug trafficking areas of Milwaukee. One of the major tasks of the community prosecutors was the cleaning up or "abatement" of nuisance properties in their target area. The nuisance properties ranged from the drug house where there is rampant drug use to the residence whose tenants could not seem to find the trashcan. For example, once a drug house is shut down crimes associated with that home, such as drive-by shootings, prostitution, and home invasions associated with stolen property for narcotic sales, are often prevented. As drug trafficking and the related crimes are prevented, citizens will demand more from their neighbors to keep the community safe.

The criminal gang organizations responsible for both crimes of violence and drug trafficking in the county are small in relative numbers but cause disproportionate amounts of harm in terms of acts of violence, addiction, loss of property value, and investment of police resources. The areas affected are geographically concentrated but can be shown to historically suffer from high rates of violence and crime. The persons living in the concentrated geographic area are among the poorest and most vulnerable in the city and are also recipients of non-law enforcement assistance. The community service providers learn information related to chronic offenders and have access to alternative resources to address prevention and intervention initiatives in the high crime areas. The abatement of nuisance properties and the targeting of the most violent offenders have restored areas once dilapidated by crime. The Community Prosecution Unit is the mechanism for coordinating information and resource sharing not only between/within law enforcement

agencies but also between law enforcement and community prevention/intervention resources.

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Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships Through National Night Out

Miami Township, Ohio, has documented an increase in Neighborhood Watch groups and has strengthened police and community partnerships, largely due to one annual event. The event, modeled after the National Association of Town Watch's National Night Out, is held every year on the first Tuesday in August. For the last 13 years, the Miami Township Police Department has organized block parties throughout the township during the day designated as National Night Out. Most block parties are scheduled as a result of an active Neighborhood Watch group and due to the aggressive outreach by crime prevention officers, new block parties and Neighborhood Watch groups have been created. The active Neighborhood Watch groups also serve as mentors to the newer groups, providing an

overview of their successes as well as the coordination of the event. The block parties also provide a means to reach out to new neighbors as well as to those who feel more comfortable attending a celebration than a structured Neighborhood Watch meeting.

The block parties are intended to create and expand the relationship between the police department and the neighborhood. It is a time when police officers can showcase equipment, provide appearances by McGruff, and help with problem-solving efforts specific to that neighborhood. The problem-solving approach is not limited to the police department; elected officials, planning and zoning personnel, and the

public works and fire departments visit each block party as well. This proves to be a comprehensive approach to resolving issues and enhancing the quality of life for township residents.

Although the best approach for problem solving and understanding the needs of the citizens is to visit them in their own neighborhoods, the promotion of National Night Out is also important. Prior to the National Night Out block parties, a kick-off event is held at a local shopping mall. Law enforcement and other public safety agencies are invited to provide an overview of their agencies' planned events, as well as display their equipment. This event builds momentum for the block parties and also provides a platform for the recruitment of new Neighborhood Watch groups.



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Bringing McGruff House® to Ohio

McGruff House is now an official program in the state of Ohio, thanks to a bill written and sponsored by Ohio State Representative Jim Hughes, with support from the Ohio Crime Prevention Association (OCPA), and signed into law on June 28, 2006. The law replaces the children's safety program known as the Block Parent program in the State Board of Education with the McGruff House Program in the Division of Criminal Justice Services of the Department of Public Safety. It permits various local entities to participate in the program, including any board of education; any educational service center; any chartered nonpublic school; the police department of any municipal corporation, township, or joint township district; and any township constable or county sheriff. The law also creates the offense of unauthorized use of a McGruff house symbol.

A McGruff House is a temporary haven for children who find themselves in frightening or dangerous situations. Children are told that they can go to a specially marked McGruff House, which might be a house, townhouse, apartment, or mobile home, any time they sense danger as they go to and from school or are playing in the neighborhood. The national McGruff House network supports the McGruff House program and similar programs including the McGruff Truck® program. The network, which is licensed by the National Crime Prevention Council, mobilizes grassroots crime prevention efforts and lobbies on behalf of local McGruff House programs to improve local, state, and national laws that help communities keep their children safe.

OCPA and the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services are working together to plan how the program will be implemented, marketed, and taught so that communities can use this program to provide another level of safety for their citizens.

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Partnering To Protect Seniors From Exploitation

Communities Against Senior Exploitation (CASE), started by the Denver District Attorney's Office in 2002 with funding from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, promotes partnerships between law enforcement and the faith community. It is designed to prevent fraud and exploitation of older adults, increase fraud detection and reporting, and provide victim support. The CASE program educates clergy and faith leaders on how to recognize elder financial crime issues and the steps to take to reduce fraud. Partner groups distribute monthly *Fraud Alerts* to their members, monitor

older adults, report suspected fraud to CASE staff members, and hold seminars. By involving the faith community, CASE builds an alliance that reaches a large and broad audience of older adults, their families and caregivers, as well as clergy and other community leaders. The CASE program is a successful community partnership that uses the trust and compassion associated with faith communities effectively to educate and empower, protect, and assist older adults. The CASE program is not limited to faith communities. It is open to anyone who would like to learn more about how to prevent senior exploitation.

The CASE program worked so well in Denver that the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, supported replicating the program across the United States. The Lee County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) in Florida is one of 23 model sites and the only law enforcement agency nationwide chosen to implement the innovative senior protection program. LCSO Crime Prevention Coordinator Stacey Payne completed training in February and launched the program in March 2006. LCSO sends out monthly *Fraud Alerts*, conducts Power Against Fraud seminars, and provides handbooks and other materials to older adults and their families to help prevent fraud and exploitation. LCSO also provides a fraud hotline to assist callers with services that include crisis intervention, information and referral, and victim advocacy services. LCSO has partnered locally with shopping centers and stores to educate customers, the Veterans' Administration Clinic, Neighborhood Watch groups, senior centers, and many more groups and associations.

The Florida Crime Prevention Association has made this program available to all law enforcement agencies in Florida through a one-week training class, which will be held at different locations around the state. Everything needed to replicate this program at respective agencies will be provided to all who attend. For information regarding the next training class, visit www.floridacrimeprevention.org.

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Cops That Care Mini-grant Program

The Cops That Care line officer mini-grant program provided the opportunity for each Rhode Island municipal police department to receive approximately \$1,500 intended to support one or more short-term, police/community relations projects over the course of the year. The amount varied as not all departments took advantage of the funding opportunity. Staff of the RI Justice Commission and its Byrne Memorial Local Law Enforcement Planning Committee (LEPC) created the Cops That Care program on behalf of the RI Police Chiefs Association. These funds were in addition to the formula allocations to police departments under the Byrne local pass through portion of the award.

The primary goal of this activity is enhanced partnerships between local police and their communities using a proactive approach rather than a reactive response to solving community problems. The Cops That Care funding opportunity has been very well received by law enforcement and has resulted in a diverse programming mix. Many

departments focused the Cops That Care funds on Halloween parties and related safety events and Red Ribbon Week activities (substance abuse awareness/prevention).

Other projects included a bike safety rodeo, dances, block parties, carnivals, assemblies, luncheons, and recognition dinners. There are also Citizen Police Academies, harvest festivals, National Night Out activities, Providence Bruins night (hockey), and the police/fire softball tournament.

Activities included youth co-leader training, youth court, youth ID-safety day, youth/mentor-related activities, and afterschool tutoring. All ages and genders receive information about car safety seats and senior issues, to women's self-defense classes and a senior bus trip with videos.

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The Kupuna ID Project

The Kupuna (senior) ID project is intended to help senior adults 65 years or older who may become disoriented, sick, or lost by providing them with identification cards that include their photo, name, and emergency contact information. Similar to the concept of the Keiki (child) ID card, the Kupuna ID card is not an official government-issued identification card. The purpose of the card is to assist emergency personnel in identifying a lost senior citizen and contacting the appropriate responsible party.

The Kupuna ID project is a partnership between the Alzheimer's Association-Safe Return; Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division, Department of the Attorney General; Elderly Affairs Division, City and County of Honolulu; Executive Office of Aging, Department of Health; Honolulu Paramedic Association; Honolulu Police Department; and Parks and Recreation, city and county of Honolulu. The corporate sponsor is State Farm Insurance.

In 2006, the Executive Office of Aging, Department of Health took over the daily maintenance of the Kupuna ID Project. Since 2003, the Department of the Attorney General has been the primary agency responsible for the project's implementation and will continue to support Kupuna ID, but will no longer be the primary source of contact or be responsible for its implementation. The Executive Office of Aging has committed staff and resources to make the project available to more communities to provide a service to elderly adults.



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Training Realtors in Crime Prevention in Wisconsin

The Realty Watch program began in 2005 after members of the Kenosha Police Department Crime Prevention Unit became aware of a real estate agent who was assaulted while showing a home. The city of Kenosha has over 500 realtors, many of them women who advertise using their photos, names, and phone numbers. Concerned about the safety of realtors who work alone when showing houses, Officer Dennis Gladwell of the DePere Police Department met with representatives from the Kenosha Realtors Association (KRA) and Shorewest Realtors to discuss ways to promote safety among real estate agents, provide crime prevention tips for agents to use, and create a safer community. A decision was reached to conduct a crime prevention training session for realtors in the city of Kenosha at the KRA summer meeting.

Over 80 real estate agents attended the training. The attendees learned about personal safety issues that may arise, such as when they are alone with unknown clients and when they are unsure of the area of town where they are working. The attendees were trained in crime prevention measures, including how to meet and screen clients, how to escape from the home when necessary, where to park their cars, what to do about weapons in the house, and how to keep “buyers” from becoming burglars. The agents were taught how to identify people and vehicles and how to report crimes or suspicious activity. All attendees received car license plate holders that identify them as members of the Realty Watch program. The program remains active and a second updated program was held over the summer. This program was created by Warren DenHartog, crime prevention officer of the Kenosha Police Department.

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Teaching Youth About Consequences

Oklahoma’s CRASHs (Courts Raising Awareness of Students in High School) Court aims to reduce underage drinking and driving among high school students and to educate stu-

dents about the potentially devastating consequences of high-risk, alcohol-related behavior including crashes, alcohol poisonings, injuries, and death.

CRASHs Court is a 75-minute primary prevention program held in a high school auditorium or gymnasium. During the first portion of the program, a real district judge sentences real defendants charged with actual pending drug and/or impaired driving offenses. The sentences imposed are binding and range from probation to jail time. This is *not* a mock trial. This is an actual district court, which includes the involvement of the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, private attorneys, and the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office. The second portion of CRASHs Court begins after court is recessed. Students are shown video clips that graphically demonstrate the consequences of disastrous life choices. Many of the video clips are obtained from local news stories about drunk-driving crashes. The district judge narrates the video clips by giving additional information about each video segment. The third portion of CRASHs Court focuses on a victim impact speaker who relates his or her own personal tragedy and is designed to appeal to the students' emotions. The program ends with the sheriff of Oklahoma County encouraging the students to avoid the life-altering, potentially deadly consequences of making bad choices.



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Celebrating 29 Years of Crime Prevention

In 2006, the Crime Prevention Association of Oregon (CPAO) celebrated its 29th anniversary as the only statewide crime prevention organization in the state of Oregon. Over the past 29 years, CPAO has played an instrumental role in leading crime prevention and community policing initiatives by providing training, technical assistance, networking opportunities, and support to the crime prevention and law enforcement communities of Oregon. As Oregon's social, economic, and political environments continue to change, CPAO continues to reinvent itself to meet the growing needs of its communities and members. The following are a summary of CPAO's recent achievements, plans, and concerns:

- CPAO's annual state conference titled "Crime Prevention, Homeland Security, and You—Putting the Pieces Together" at Mt. Bachelor, Oregon, in April 2006. The conference offered both networking and professional growth opportunities to CPAO's current members and others interested in crime prevention through workshops, seminars, keynote speakers, an awards ceremony, and more.

- 2005/2006 trainings. These included a crime prevention basics academy, homeland security seminar, statewide workshops “How To Talk About Meth,” personal safety for teens and young adults, and Neighborhood Watch training.
- Membership expansion. CPAO expanded its membership recruitment by offering free membership to training participants, which resulted in an overall membership increase of approximately 12 percent.
- Partnership development. CPAO is committed to networking and partnership development with statewide and national stakeholders including the National Crime Prevention Council, Western Community Policing Institute, counties, cities, and more. CPAO’s partnership with stakeholders resulted in a number of joint efforts including training events and the promotion of initiatives.

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VCPA Law Enforcement Advisory Committee and Regional Roundtables

The Virginia Crime Prevention Association (VCPA) has organized a law enforcement advisory committee to foster a closer working relationship with Virginia’s law enforcement executives. The primary mission of the advisory committee is to make sure that the VCPA is receiving regular input on the crime prevention program needs, interests, and concerns of Virginia’s law enforcement executives. The advisory committee is composed of three sheriffs, three police chiefs, and one campus law enforcement executive. The advisory committee will meet two times per year with the VCPA executive committee. The advisory committee will also be consulted to deal with emergency or time-sensitive issues. The VCPA asked several law enforcement executives to serve on the committee and invited the Virginia Chiefs of Police Association and the Virginia Sheriffs’



Association to recommend two law enforcement executives from each organization to serve on the VCPA committee.

The VCPA held two regional state crime prevention leaders’ forums for state crime prevention program leaders. The purpose of the two forums was to discuss the status of crime prevention in the respective states and to explore the opportunities for expanding and enhancing those crime prevention services. The state leaders’ forums are funded through a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Selected states were invited to send two representatives to the regional forums. One forum was held in late April 2006

in Bristol, VA, and the other forum in late August 2006 in Park City, UT. BJA plans to fund additional roundtables in 2007.

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Preventing Crime in Montana

For the past two years, AARP Montana has been providing local communities with fraud summits designed to give people information about a variety of frauds and scams, including identity theft. Fraud summits also bring together members of the community and law enforcement. Partners in this venture include the Montana attorney general, Montana state auditor, Montana banking commissioner, the Federal Trade Commission, and other organizations. During AARP Montana's initial outreach to 23 communities in 2004, five of the summits were on American Indian reservations. Beginning in 2006, with the help of the attorney general and Montana State Bar Association, AARP Montana intends to offer training for law enforcement and for attorneys.

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Neighborhood Watch Conference in New York State

The New York State Attorney General's annual statewide Neighborhood Watch Conference, "Neighborhood Watch as a Catalyst for Community and Home Safety," was held on May 24, 2006, and attracted hundreds of community activists, civic leaders, law enforcement, and allied professionals. Experts from the New York State Police, National Crime Prevention Council, Partnership for Drug-free America, Citizens for New York City, and other organizations presented at the conference on topics such as methamphetamine, fraud awareness, designing an effective webpage, leadership skills, and working with victims in the community. This year's crime prevention conference enabled volunteers and law enforcement practitioners to learn about trends, explore successful crime reduction strategies, refine skills, and celebrate the work of community capacity



building. In addition to attending seminars and receiving reference materials, attendees had the opportunity to converse with representatives from the New York State Crime Prevention Coalition about problems in forming and maintaining a Neighborhood Watch or crime patrol. The program concluded with the presentation of the Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's Awards of Excellence to exemplary crime prevention and Neighborhood Watch groups around the state and with a musical program by chorus members from the Thomas O'Brien Academy for Science and Technology of the Albany City School District.

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Toolkit for Effective Crime Prevention Presentations

This year, the Governor's Crime Commission (GCC), along with the North Carolina Crime Prevention Association (NCCPA), has been compiling a crime prevention toolkit designed to help law enforcement give public presentations. The toolkit includes PowerPoint presentations and lesson plans on topics such as protecting oneself and one's home, business crime prevention strategies, and gang awareness for communities. The toolkit also includes handouts, brochures, and references for each topic presented and sections on how to make PowerPoint presentations and tips on good public-speaking techniques. The toolkit will be available to crime prevention practitioners following a six- to eight-hour instructional course on how to use the kit and make presentations. The idea behind the toolkit is to make teaching materials available to law enforcement officers to alleviate starting over each time they want to do a presentation. This toolkit is also designed for the smaller law enforcement agencies that have only one or two police officers and cannot spare them for longer crime prevention trainings. The first toolkit training session was conducted at the NCCPA fall conference in November.

The GCC serves as the chief advisory body to the governor and the secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety on crime and justice issues. The GCC administers the state's criminal justice and juvenile justice federal block grants awarded to the state of North Carolina.

Contact

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Minnesota Crime Prevention Highlights

The Minnesota Crime Prevention Association (MCPA), established in 1973, is a statewide, nonprofit organization of citizens, law enforcement officers, and crime prevention prac-

titioners who work together to promote, develop, and advance crime prevention programs. The following are highlights from its 2006 activities:

- MCPA's 9th Annual Crime Prevention Conference was held October 15–17, 2006.
- MCPA continues to coordinate the funding, printing, and distribution of more than 1.5 million Minnesota Wild (hockey) and Minnesota Twins (baseball) trading cards featuring professional team players and McGruff with an important safety message for children.
- The MCPA's National Night Out (NNO) committee efforts have increased NNO awareness and participation throughout the entire state by partnering with Target Corporation and Homeland Security, providing information at phone banks on live television broadcasts, and sharing information on how to coordinate a successful NNO.
- The MCPA board of directors will be releasing the first ever annual report for 2006 by March 2007.

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Treasure Valley Neighborhood Watch Summit

The Idaho Crime Prevention Association partnered with four southwest Idaho law enforcement agencies to bring the first Treasure Valley Neighborhood Watch Summit to southwest Idaho. The focus of the summit was the revitalization of the Neighborhood Watch program. The summit brought together community members, Neighborhood Watch participants, neighborhood associations, neighborhood housing groups, city officials, and law enforcement. The keynote speaker was Dr. Vincent Kituku, a native of Kenya, Africa. Dr. Kituku draws on his rich cultural heritage and his in-depth experience in corporate America to help others apply the strategies of personal and professional success to their lives. His focus was on the value of community and police working together and getting involved. Each of the 140 participants had the opportunity to choose two of the following workshops: Creating Healthy Neighborhoods, Communicating With Your Neighbors, Planning Neighborhood Events, Identity Theft, Gang Awareness, Computer Crimes, and Understanding the Criminal Mind. The effectiveness of this Neighborhood Watch Summit has prompted the Idaho Crime Prevention Association to continue to bring this highly successful program to more communities.

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Crime Prevention in Miami-Dade County

Citizens' Crime Watch (CCW) of Miami-Dade, Florida, has had an extremely successful year in implementing Neighborhood Watch thanks to the Miami-Dade Police Department and

local police department partners, Miami-Dade county commissioners, volunteers, and media partners. Miami-Dade County is a multicultural community that faces many challenges, but thanks to funding of literature for the Hispanic and Haitian populations, CCW was successful in getting them involved in crime prevention. This year the CCW accomplished the following:

- It established over 512 new Neighborhood Watch groups and helped revitalize 227 existing groups in Miami-Dade County and municipalities, reaching over 30,000 residents and distributing over 45,355 pieces of crime prevention literature.
- It received over 2,145 “calls for service” requesting countywide CCW implementation assistance and joint programs with other agencies, and 107 statewide and 97 countrywide “requests for service” on how to implement Neighborhood Watch in multicultural (Hispanic and Haitian) communities. Requests for McGruff the Crime Dog this year resulted in over 100 appearances.
- It participated in the National Night Out/Citizens Stand Against Crime events, reaching 12,000 residents, many of whom came out in the rain. These events took place in August, September, and October of 2005.
- It coordinated 37 senior crime prevention programs reaching over 2,000 seniors.
- It participated in countywide events such as bicycle rodeos, safety fairs, health fairs, Red Ribbon Week, October Crime Prevention Month events, Stop the Violence events; the Attorney General Charlie Crist “Conference on Preventing Crime in the Black Community”; the NBC/Telemundo Safety Days event; Chairman Joe Martinez’s Hurricane Preparedness event; and many more events, reaching over 45,891 residents.

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Helping Citizens Avoid Identity Theft

The Central Virginia Crime Prevention Association is working to fight identity theft with a new campaign titled, Shred Identity Theft. One of the fastest growing forms of consumer fraud, identity theft can ruin an individual’s credit or wipe out entire bank accounts. It can take months or even years for someone to clear his or her name and financial records. Prevention and awareness are crime-fighting tools that can help citizens deter identity thieves.

One important way citizens can protect against identity theft is to shred personal documents rather than putting them in trash bins where “dumpster divers” can retrieve them and extract personal information in order to commit fraud. Shred Identity Theft is a free, metro-wide crime prevention campaign developed by the Central Virginia Crime Prevention Association in collaboration with the Henrico, Chesterfield, and Richmond Police Departments; the Hanover Sheriff’s Office; and Shred It™, a nationwide document destruction company. Shredding personal documents instead of placing them in the trash is one way to deter identity thieves. Shredding events were held in 2006 on all four Saturdays during October, which is Crime Prevention Month. Area citizens were encouraged to attend and could bring up to four boxes (no larger than

10"x13"x18") of personal documents to be shredded on site in the Shred It™ document destruction truck.

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Talking to Kids About Drugs

The Utah Council for Crime Prevention (UCCP) launched the “Let’s Talk Utah” campaign at their annual crime prevention conference in November 2005. The purpose of the campaign is to engage parents and youth in discussion on critical issues facing young people. The campaign focuses on the message “Are You Really Talking to Your Kids About Drugs?,” informing parents of the importance of having conversations about drug use with their children. Surveys of Utah parents indicated that drugs are the biggest concern for parents and that these parents want to be the first provider of information to their youth. Youth also indicated that drugs were their biggest concern, and they too want parents to be the first line of information on this issue. The problem according to the survey is that 75 percent of parents said they were talking to their kids about drugs, while only 25 percent of youth indicated that parents were talking to them about drugs.

The campaign in English and Spanish for grades K through sixth and seventh through 12th includes a DVD, information brochure, and parent toolkit. Phase II of the project will include a website, posters, billboards, and other materials.

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Wiring Neighborhoods Against Crime

Neighborhoods are often safer when residents unite in the fight against crime. Wired Blocks Network, Inc., a nonprofit volunteer organization founded in 2003, has developed an innovative approach to connecting residents to each other and to their local law enforcement agency. We’re Watching and We’re Wired is a community/law enforcement e-network developed as a model in the zone five Pittsburgh Police Department. Residents form a Block Watch and select representatives to be Block Watch captains and e-network email contacts. The “watching” part involves the training of volunteers by the police crime prevention unit so they can better report suspicious activity to their law enforcement agencies. The “wired” part involves the formation of an e-network so that when something happens in the neighborhood, volunteers can ensure that the email contacts receive a message or alert. Volunteers print the information and post it on their block under the warning We’re Watching and We’re Wired signs. This system allows everyone to receive the information at the same time and, because hard copies of the messages are

posted in each block, rumors are eliminated. As part of the program, each participating block receives an 18" x 24" steel warning sign, and each household receives anti-crime resource brochures.

In 2005, Wired Blocks Network formed a partnership with the Pittsburgh Public School District–Morningside Elementary School to develop an action plan to improve safety and security in the school and community. In June of that year, Morningside Elementary School of the Pittsburgh Public School District and Wired Blocks Network were awarded one of the ten National Crime Prevention Council/The Allstate Foundation's Be Safe and Sound grants in Pennsylvania. Be Safe and Sound is a public education campaign that seeks to raise awareness of school safety and security issues and provide concrete measures that parents, community members, and educators can take to make schools safer and more secure. Wired Blocks Network and the Be Safe and Sound action team initiated a Blue Ribbon panel composed of public and private community leaders to assess school and community safety issues in Morningside.

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Forming a New Crime Prevention Association in Nevada

As part of the Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance (TA) program, the State of Nevada is receiving assistance from the National Crime Prevention Council to form a statewide crime prevention association. The creation of a state association has been a goal of many crime prevention practitioners in Nevada for some time. In August of 2005, Nevada applied and was accepted by NCPC to participate in the newly formed Peer-to-Peer program. Shortly after acceptance into the program, Nevada crime prevention practitioners were teamed up with representatives from the California Crime Prevention Officer's Association and the Arizona Crime Prevention Association. These more experienced association members helped guide Nevada as it created the Nevada State Crime Prevention Association.

Nevada first formed an exploratory committee and studied how other state associations worked. Committee members noted many similarities in state associations, including an emphasis on training, networking, and expanding crime prevention awareness. The Nevada State Crime Prevention Association then drafted a constitution and by-laws, chose an executive board, designed a logo, and began the process of both legal incorporation and becoming a 501(c)(3) organization.

Members of the new Nevada State Crime Prevention Association are reaching out to all entities in Nevada who might have an interest in the Nevada State Crime Prevention Association, including law enforcement and public service agencies, and they are developing an outreach plan for private and corporate partners with a stake in crime prevention. Once fully established, the association will embark on a membership drive throughout Nevada. The association plans to become fully operational as quickly as possible and

to focus on tourism safety, community disaster preparedness, and CPTED among other crime prevention areas. The association also plans to offer trainings and networking opportunities to its members.

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Fighting Automobile Theft in Arizona

Residents of Arizona have a higher chance of becoming victims of car theft than residents of other states according to the FBI 2004 Uniform Crime Report, which ranked Arizona second in the country for vehicle thefts. A vehicle is stolen in Arizona approximately every ten minutes, the impact affects the vehicle owner, employers, family members, insurance companies, law enforcement agencies, and others.

The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA) is a state agency created in 1992 by the Arizona legislature to deter vehicle theft through a cooperative effort by supporting law enforcement activities, vertical prosecution, and public awareness/community education programs. The AATA collaborates with statewide law enforcement, insurance, and community partners to host community events and disseminate a comprehensive auto theft prevention message. In addition, the AATA awards annual grants to statewide criminal justice agencies to support public awareness and law enforcement activities aimed at reducing auto theft in Arizona. The agency is funded by the insurance industry by a mandatory one dollar per year assessment on every vehicle insured in the state of Arizona and is a unique example of a government/business/consumer partnership. The law enforcement and investigation component of the AATA is the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force, which is a statewide, multi-agency task force that investigates, prosecutes, and deters vehicle theft and insurance fraud.



The AATA increases public awareness by educating Arizona citizens about automobile theft protection through use of media campaigns and community events. The AATA sponsors a free Watch Your Car program in Arizona. This program operates daily between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., when most auto thefts occur. Participants enroll in the program, then receive decals to place on the front and rear windows of the vehicle. If a police officer observes the vehicle in operation between the program hours, they have the authority to stop the vehicle and verify ownership.

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Taking Aim at Gangs and System Infrastructure With '06 Byrne JAG Funds

The Governor's Crime Commission (GCC), a division of the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, is the state's administering agency (SAA) overseeing the expenditure of most federal criminal justice and law enforcement block grant dollars. Chief among these is the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG).

The mission of the GCC has been to improve the quality of life for the citizens of North Carolina, to enhance public safety, and to reduce and prevent crime by improving the criminal justice system. The commission has historically used a committee structure to research and evaluate statewide issues to make recommendations to the governor for any statutory changes in or additions to North Carolina law.

The Criminal Justice Improvement committee uses approximately 70 percent of the Byrne funds each year. The remaining 30 percent has been used as support mechanisms for programs originating in the juvenile prevention, juvenile intervention, and victims services committees in areas that are not normally offered under their respective funding resources.

Each committee may recommend a variety of programs that go far beyond their traditional funding allowances and entertain creative program development while merging several overlapping criminal justice issues. It also allows the SAA to draw on partnership agreements among disciplines in efforts to curb crime's influence from its earliest stages through early child intervention and adolescence to adulthood. North Carolina has found this pre-emptive approach more effective than trying to solve problems that have evolved and are now entrenched within communities and domestic settings.

Given the changing landscape and reduced federal funding streams, the committees of the GCC have been reorganized to reflect the changing criminal justice needs of a growing, diverse, and changing population better. The previous four committees have been consolidated into three new committees: (1) Criminal Justice System Improvement, (2) Crime Victims' Services, and (3) Juvenile Justice Planning.

Issues of cooperation, collaboration with the development of partnerships, and sustainability of programs post-GCC funding were dominant in each of the new committee categories. The GCC announced the availability of grant funds to nonprofit agencies, and to local and state government agencies, to start new and innovative programs that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the justice system and enhance the quality of service to victims of crime in North Carolina.

Pre-applications were received in three priority areas: (1) juvenile justice, (2) criminal justice improvement, and (3) crime victims' services. The criminal justice improvement committee is the new venue through which all Byrne JAG grant applications must first

flow. The committee encourages proactive and innovative programs, seeks out methodologies to reduce and discourage drug use and associated problems, and helps enhance all aspects of criminal justice processing, including the incarceration and treatment of offenders. Despite a serious reduction in funds allocated by Washington, the commission's deliberations resulted in a pass through of nearly 84 percent of Byrne JAG funding to mostly local rural jurisdictions in tight financial times. The commission approved 132 grant applications out of 227 requests for FY 2006, setting an all-time record for North Carolina.

The 2006 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant has been dedicated to the following programs:

- ***Gang Enforcement, Prevention, and Interdiction.*** (Program Cost: 15 projects at \$1,289,842)
North Carolina has taken great strides toward combating the rising tide of gang violence in the state by making it possible for Gang-Net to become operational statewide by summer 2007 by providing funds for all infrastructure costs. Gang-Net will allow all law enforcement agencies across the state, at minimal cost, to have complete connectivity with each other through intelligence information-sharing database systems. For the first time, they can attack gang problems as a uniform body rather than in piecemeal fashion.
- ***Law Enforcement Block Grants.*** (Program Cost: 71 projects at \$548,457)
Small local law enforcement agencies that do not qualify for direct JAG awards from the U.S. Department of Justice may apply under this priority for equipment purchases such as mobile digital computers, end-user devices, radios, and statewide automated fingerprint identification system-related equipment.
- ***Drug Enforcement and Interdiction.*** (Program Cost: 22 projects at \$510,761)
These funds support statewide, regional, and system-wide partnerships that disrupt, investigate, and prosecute illegal drug activities. North Carolina has enjoyed considerable success in using multi-agency drug task forces that operate directly in concert with federal authorities (DEA, FBI, ATF, U.S. Attorney's Office) and with state authorities (SBI, Attorney General's Office, District Attorneys Offices). Overtime resources up to \$10,000 per department for specially designated detectives and patrol officers have enhanced the investigation and disruption of street drug sales. Statewide programs also continue to improve and expand the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation laboratory's response to drug testing requests submitted by local law enforcement agencies.
- ***Statewide Connectivity/Information Networks.*** (Program Cost: five projects at \$505,575)
These funds support technology projects designed to enhance or expand criminal justice systems that are directly related to illegal drug and gang activity, court efficiency, crime prevention technology, and cyber crime.
The new Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAAC), funded by the Governor's Crime Commission and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, will house Gang-Net and enhance local law enforcement's ability to gather and evaluate information on homeland security, criminal threats, and gang activity. ISAAC includes representatives from various federal, state, and local agencies including alcohol law enforcement, emergency management, highway patrol, and the National Guard (all sister divisions of the GCC).
- ***Criminal Justice Improvement.*** (Program Cost: Seven programs at \$1,336,052)
Statewide programs that continue improvement and expansion of the state's DNA database in forensic examination, evidence collection, and rape kit backlog processing

initiatives through N.C. State Bureau of Investigation have been an ongoing focus for Byrne JAG monies.

The 2006 Byrne JAG funds have also been set aside to underwrite the state's child abuse efforts, including countywide law enforcement child abuse investigative units that work in direct consultation, and involve interagency collaboration, with local social services, mental health agencies, and public school administrators to help in the detection, intervention, evidence collection, arrest, and the prosecution of offenders.

In all, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant has allowed North Carolina's criminal justice system to initiate 132 programs for \$4,190,687, stretching its criminal justice dollars further and more effectively than ever before

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