



The 2007 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 400 national, federal, state, and local organizations representing thousands of constituents who are committed to preventing crime. It hosts two websites: [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org) for adults and [www.mcgruff.org](http://www.mcgruff.org) for children. 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.



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National Crime Prevention Council  
2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 500  
Arlington, VA 22202  
202-466-6272  
[www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)

April 2008

Dear CPCA Members,

The mission of the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is to be the nation's leader in helping people keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe from crime. The dedicated members of the Crime Prevention Coalition of America (CPCA) act on that mission every day. Numbering more than 400 agency members nationwide representing thousands of constituents, the CPCA helps engage citizens who want to partner with law enforcement to build safer and healthier communities. It is the national voice for crime prevention. In short, we are the nation's premier crime prevention network.

NCPC and the CPCA Executive Committee worked throughout 2007 to provide resources, materials, training, and technical assistance to CPCA members at the state and local levels to support and sustain crime prevention. Highlights of our work include the following:

- We continued the regional **Crime Prevention State Leaders' Forums** (in partnership with the Virginia Crime Prevention Association and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice). These successful events took place in Florida and Wisconsin and continued the work started in 2006 at the regional forums in Virginia and Utah.
- We attended, participated in, and supported many of your **state crime prevention association and coalition annual conferences**.
- **The CPCA Executive Committee** met three times and also held frequent meetings by conference call. The Executive Committee worked throughout the year to support the *8th National Conference on Preventing Crime: Helping Build Safer Communities* and hosted a CPCA information room at the conference. Many CPCA members were able to attend this conference, which took place in October in Atlanta, GA.
- Also as part of the *8th National Conference on Preventing Crime*, **CPCA hosted an all-day State Leaders' Forum**.
- NCPC presented **McGruff's 2007 Crime Prevention Awards of Excellence** to four outstanding programs and two dedicated crime prevention professionals—all CPCA members. These recipients are highlighted in this report and represent some of the best crime prevention work in the United States.
- CPCA published and distributed several documents, including the **2007-2008 Crime Prevention Month Kit: Protecting Children and Youth**. As CPCA members, you also gained access to NCPC resources such as the **2007 Electronic Press Kit**.
- We continued to provide updates and information to you through the CPCA **E-Bulletin** and the **CPCA members-only website**.
- The **Peer-to-Peer Training and Technical Assistance program** continued with work in Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, and New York.

This document, the **2007 CPCA Annual Report**, describes local efforts, state initiatives, and national partnerships that collectively help to build safer communities. This report offers merely a glimpse of the vast crime prevention activities taking place across the United States. On behalf of NCPC and CPCA, thank you for all that you do, every day, to "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®."

Sincerely,



Alfonso E. Lenhardt  
President and CEO

# CRIME PREVENTION COALITION OF AMERICA

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### UTAH COUNCIL FOR CRIME PREVENTION

**Tibby Milne** (CHAIR)  
*Executive Director*  
66 East Cleveland Avenue  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115-5328  
Phone: 801-486-8691  
Cell: 801-557-4445  
Fax: 801-486-8815  
E-Mail: tibbyucp@aol.com  
Website: www.utcrimeprevention.org  
Appointment year: 2003

### KENTUCKY CRIME PREVENTION COALITION

**Bob Douglas** (VICE-CHAIR)  
*Executive Director*  
318 Garvey Avenue  
Elsmere, KY 41018  
Phone: 859-727-2678  
Fax: 859-727-2680  
E-Mail: kcp@fuse.net  
Website: www.kycrimeprevention.org  
Appointment year: 2005

### ASIS INTERNATIONAL

**Michael J. Stack**, *Executive Director*  
1625 Prince Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703-519-6200  
Fax: 703-518-1519  
E-Mail: mstack@asisonline.org

**Robert Rowe**  
E-Mail: rrowe@asisonline.org  
Website: www.asisonline.org  
Appointment year: 2005

### BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

**Lorraine Howerton**, *Senior Vice President*  
Office of Government Relations  
1310 G Street NW, Suite 770  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: 202-478-2600  
E-mail: LHowerton@bgca.org

**Jane Rodgers**  
E-mail: JRodgers@bgca.org  
Appointment year: 2007

### CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION CENTER

**Nancy Matson**, *Director*  
P.O. Box 944255  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550  
Phone: 916-322-2902  
Fax: 916-327-2384  
E-Mail: nancy.matson@doj.ca.gov  
Website: http://safestate.org/  
Appointment year: 2005

### CITY OF PLANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Officer Tammy Snider**  
909 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
Phone: 972-941-2060  
Fax: 972-941-2519  
E-Mail: tammys@plano.gov  
Appointment year: 2007

### FLORIDA CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

**Keith Stripling**, *President*  
c/o Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office  
504 NW 4th Street  
Okeechobee, FL 34972  
Phone: 863-763-6064  
Fax: 863-763-8114  
E-Mail: crimepreventionunit@sheriff.co.okeechobee.fl.us  
Website: www.floridacrimeprevention.org  
Appointment year: 2003

### FLORIDA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

**Daniel A. Gilmore**, *Coordinator*  
Crime in the Black Community Program  
Office of the Attorney General  
PL-01, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050  
Phone: 850-414-3353  
Fax: 850-413-0633  
E-Mail: Daniel\_gilmore@oag.state.fl.us  
Website: www.preventblackcrime.com  
Appointment year: 2002

### IDAHO CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

**Elena Vigil**, *Past President*  
2112 W. Flamingo Avenue  
Nampa, ID 83651  
Phone: 208-468-5571  
Fax: 208-465-5511  
E-Mail: vigile@ci.nampa.id.us  
Website: www.idahocrimeprevent.org  
Appointment year: 2006

### INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

**Dan Rosenblatt**, *Executive Director*  
515 North Washington Street, Suite 400  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2357  
Phone: 703-836-6767  
Fax: 703-836-4543  
E-Mail: rosenblatt@theiacp.org

**Beth Currier**  
E-mail: currierb@theiacp.org  
Website: www.theiacp.org  
Appointment year: 2005

### MIAMI TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Major John M. DiPietro**, *Deputy Chief of Police*  
2660 Lyons Road  
Miamisburg, OH 45342  
Phone: 937-433-2418  
Fax: 937-438-2337  
E-mail: jdipietro@miamitownship.com  
Website: www.miamitownship.com  
Appointment year: 2005

### NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAITH AND JUSTICE

**Addie Richburg**, *President*  
P.O. Box 77075  
Washington, DC 20013-7075  
Phone: 703-765-4459  
Fax: 703-765-9761  
Email: arichburg@bop.gov  
Website: www.nabcj.org  
Appointment year: 2003

### NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

**Cabell C. Cropper**, *Executive Director*  
720 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3716  
Phone: 202-628-8550 - General  
Fax: 202-628-0080  
E-Mail: ccropper@ncja.org

**Kay Chopard Cohen**  
E-Mail: kchopard@ncja.org  
Website: www.ncja.org  
Appointment year: 2005

### NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

**Thomas J. Charron**, *Executive Director*  
99 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 510  
Alexandria, VA 22314-1588  
Phone: 703-549-9222  
Fax: 703-836-3195  
E-Mail: tom.charron@ndaa.org

**John F. Wilkinson**  
E-Mail: john.wilkinson@ndaa.org  
Website: www.ndaa.org  
Appointment year: 2005

### NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

**Aaron D. Kennard**, *Executive Director*  
1450 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3490  
Phone: 703-838-5314  
Fax: 703-683-6541  
E-mail: Exec@Sheriffs.org

**Robbi Woodson**  
E-mail: rwoodson@sheriffs.org  
Website: www.sheriffs.org  
Appointment year: 2005

### NEW YORK STATE CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

**Felicia Watson**, *Director*  
175 Route 32 North  
New Paltz, NY 12561  
Phone: 845-255-8989  
Cell: 914-456-5085  
E-Mail: fwatson@mhrhc.org  
Website: www.mhrhc.org/scss/  
Appointment year: 2003

### VIRGINIA CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

**Patrick D. Harris**, *Executive Director*  
1405 Westover Hills Boulevard, Suite 6  
Richmond, VA 23225  
Phone: 804-231-3800  
Fax: 804-231-3900  
E-mail: vaprevent@aol.com  
Website: www.vcpa.org  
Appointment year: 2005

### WASHINGTON STATE CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

**Daryl Pearson**, *Executive Director*  
1631 W. Rose Street, Suite F-615  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
Phone: 509-525-3342  
Fax: 509-522-9937  
E-mail: info@wscpaonline.org  
Website: www.washingtoncrimeprevention.org  
Appointment year: 2005

### WISCONSIN CRIME PREVENTION PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION

**Steve Herman**, *President*  
2320 Industrial Drive  
Neenah, WI 54956-4863  
Phone: 920-236-7309  
E-mail: sherman@co.winnebago.wi.us

**Joel Dhein**, *Vice President*  
E-mail: j.dhein@glendale-wi.org  
Website: www.wcippa.org  
Appointment year: 2008

### BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**Paul Steiner**, *Senior Policy Advisor*  
810 7th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20531-0001  
Phone: 202-616-3630  
Fax: 202-305-2542  
E-Mail: paul.steiner@usdoj.gov  
Website: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/

### NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

**Alfonso E. Lenhardt**, *President and CEO*  
2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 500  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Phone: 202-466-6272  
Fax: 202-296-1356  
E-Mail: alenhardt@nccpc.org  
Website: www.nccpc.org



# Introduction

This annual report from the Crime Prevention Coalition of America (CPCA) offers a snapshot of crime prevention in the United States during 2007. It documents the passionate and innovative efforts of thousands of individuals and organizations on the national, state, and local levels 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 to meet the nation's crime prevention and homeland security needs. Additionally, this report describes the CPCA'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, and community-based organizations committed to taking action to prevent crime. Membership in the CPCA this year hit a milestone: 400 national, federal, state, and local organizations representing thousands of constituents who are committed to preventing crime. CPCA was established in 1980 and 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. They all share the common vision that the focused actions of member organizations will create a safer nation in which communities watch out and help out.

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



In 2006, for the second straight year, the number of violent crimes rose in the United States, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This marks the first sustained increase in homicides, robberies, and other serious offenses since the early 1990s. *Crime in the United States 2006*, the annual report from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, showed an increase of 1.9 percent in violent offenses last year, following a 2.3 percent increase in 2005, which was the first significant increase in violent crime in 15 years. Property crimes, such as auto theft and vandalism, decreased 1.9 percent when compared with 2005 figures, and the number of rapes and assaults declined slightly. The number of violent offenses fell steadily from 1993 until early in this decade. 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 (2006 compared with 1997), violent crime fell 13.3 percent. That is reason to celebrate.

The Crime Prevention Coalition of America is committed to preventing crime in every community across the nation. No community should be left behind. The efforts of this body of organizations will not 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 have had, and continue to have, a critical impact on the levels of crime facing American communities.

Some accomplishments include

- The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud's new website and blog, which better disseminate information about fraud
- The Peer-to-Peer initiative, which is helping build and strengthen state crime prevention associations
- The *Responsible Adults: Safe Teens* public awareness campaign launched by the California Attorney General's Office and the Office of Traffic Safety
- The Virginia Crime Prevention Association, which trained nearly 3,700 individuals in more than 200 locations
- The Communities Against Senior Exploitation (C.A.S.E.) program, which was recently introduced by the Florida Crime Prevention Association

Our crime prevention and community involvement message has taken root. Over the past 27 years, we have proven that the problems related to crime, violence, and substance abuse are not simply a job for law enforcement to fix. 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 and NCPC. Members of the Executive Committee include leaders of 21 of its member organizations from all levels of CPCA membership (national, state, and local organizations). These leaders help identify the trends and opportunities on which the CPCA should focus energy and activities for its members. Additionally, the CPCA's Executive Committee serves as an important advisory body to the National Crime Prevention Council, the CPCA's secretariat. As such, the CPCA provides a critical link to "on the ground" prevention practitioners for the nation's premier source of crime prevention information, materials, training, and other resources. The CPCA Executive Committee meets three times per calendar year. At the March 2007 Executive Committee meeting, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the National Alliance of Faith and Justice were voted in as members of the Executive Committee. A list of members of the Executive Committee can be found on page 2 of this report.

The CPCA also supports the National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign, the public service advertising campaign that has given us McGruff the Crime Dog®. 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. 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.

Under the umbrella of the new strategic plan, NCPC will continue to supply resources, tools, and training to reduce the opportunities for crime. In the fall of 2007, through the support of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department Justice, NCPC released Volume 3 of *Crime Prevention Presentations*, a CD-ROM for use by CPCA members. These presentations are in PowerPoint format and cover topics such as online predators, preventing violence in the workplace, prisoner reentry, and keeping information safe in the technology age. Volumes 1 and 2, which include presentations on 15 crime prevention topics, are available free online. Each presentation is designed to educate, increase awareness, and teach prevention strategies. These presentations are ideal for CPCA members who are not able to travel to training events due to budget or personnel constraints.

The Executive Committee and CPCA staff encourage organizations involved in crime prevention to consider joining the Crime Prevention Coalition of America. The CPCA offers membership to national, state, and community-based organizations from all levels of government, private nonprofit organizations, the busi-

ness community, the faith community, educational institutions, and other local community coalitions or associations. Member categories include the following:

- State and national 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 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 other groups with an interest in crime prevention (such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving).
- Associate membership is offered to business or corporate organizations interested in the full range of CPCA activities and publications; associate members are those who provide substantial financial or in-kind resources to the secretariat.
- For-profit membership is offered to organizations that conduct business to make a profit. To obtain membership in this category, the organization is required to have a demonstrated 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 CPCA 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 CPCA 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.

In October 2007, the National Crime Prevention Council, in partnership with the Crime Prevention Coalition of America and the U.S. Department of Justice, hosted the 8th National Conference on Preventing Crime: *Helping Build Safer Communities*, in Atlanta, GA. CPCA members received a member discount of \$50 off their registration fees for the conference. The conference offered more than 65 educational sessions presented by the nation's leading crime prevention specialists on topics such as emerging trends in crime prevention, bullying, Internet safety, community preparedness, Neighborhood Watch, gang prevention, fraud prevention for senior citizens, and more. The conference provided a forum and training for all crime prevention practitioners to identify and learn about emerging trends and issues and ways to address them; to network with colleagues from across the country, sharing experiences and successes; and to renew commitments to prevention as a priority in reducing crime. The National Conference on Preventing Crime has proven to be a driving force in disseminating crime prevention information nationwide and promoting crime prevention issues to policymakers at the national, state, and local levels.

CPCA fosters networking among members and crime prevention practitioners. In 2007, one such opportunity was the Regional State Leader Roundtables. The Virginia Crime Prevention Association (VCPA) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) worked in conjunction to hold Regional State Leader Roundtables in the Deep South (Orlando, FL) and in the Midwest (Appleton, WI). These forums brought together state crime prevention association and 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 sponsored the regional forums and worked closely with CPCA to make sure that the needs of the field were met.

The CPCA also held a State Leaders' Forum prior to the national conference. Fifty-five state leaders from 26 states assembled on October 1, 2007, to discuss a wide variety of issues that are currently affecting the state crime prevention associations and coalitions. These issues included how the regional state forums, held over the past year, have promoted cooperation among state agencies; how crime prevention mandates or authorizing legislation has promoted crime prevention; and the National Crime Prevention Association's Crime Prevention Specialist Certificate Program.

Membership in the Crime Prevention Coalition of America also provides an opportunity to help shape and disseminate the National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign to the field. The National Citizens' Crime Prevention 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. Oftentimes, CPCA 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 CPCA member customizing the ad.

The CPCA's members-only website, found on [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org), includes information from CPCA member organizations about prevention programs and policies, funding sources, and organizational tips. By logging onto this website, CPCA 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 CPCA by the National Crime Prevention Council. By constantly sharing information, CPCA members can borrow from the best practices that work.

The *CPCA E-Bulletin* provides timely information to the field, with news and updates about CPCA, the National Crime Prevention Council, training and events around the country, 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 NCPC staff travel and work. The *E-Bulletin* is sent via email and archived copies are also available on the CPCA members-only website.

Every year, the CPCA produces a Crime Prevention Month Kit in a 12-month calendar format for its member organizations. *The Crime Prevention Month Kit 2007–2008: Protecting Children and Youth* provides strategies and materials to help youth learn how to protect themselves from crime, such as identity theft and teen dating violence, as well as how they can share these strategies with their community with crime watches, workshops, mentoring programs, and service-learning projects. 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 for the law enforcement officer or community partner looking to educate communities on how to protect children and youth by teaching them sound crime prevention habits. CPCA members receive one copy of the Crime Prevention Month Kit for free and have access to discounted rates for bulk purchases.

In 2007, a new electronic press kit was made available to CPCA members to use during Crime Prevention Month. The kit includes resources such as a PowerPoint presentation, press releases, a sample crime prevention month proclamation, newspaper mat features, and research reports. The resources in the kit are designed to help reinforce the message that crime prevention works. A variety of tools are presented to suit communities with different crime and safety issues.

The National Crime Prevention Council provides strategic planning assistance to CPCA members, working like an outside facilitator to help their organization develop a tailored plan of action to improve their capacity to provide crime prevention services. The CPCA staff is dedicated to increasing the capacity of each of its members and strengthening the entire network of crime prevention organizations that support the work of the National Crime Prevention Council. CPCA member organizations interested in inviting National Crime Prevention Council staff to speak at their events should contact the National Crime Prevention Council's CPCA staff to plan the event. CPCA staff can be reached by email at [membership@ncpc.org](mailto:membership@ncpc.org) or by telephone at 202-466-6272.

The Crime Prevention Coalition of America leads the collective efforts of individuals, communities, and government to improve the quality of life by preventing crime. 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 CPCA. 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 Crime Prevention Coalition of America believes that

*Preventing crime is*

- Everyone's business
- More than security
- A responsibility of all levels and agencies of government
- Linked with solving social problems
- Cost-effective

*Preventing crime requires*

- A central role in law enforcement
- Cooperation and collaboration by all elements of the community
- Education
- Tailoring to local needs and conditions
- Continual evaluation and improvement

As we look ahead to 2008, the CPCA will be developing and reinvigorating programs to address the needs of the crime prevention community. Additionally, the CPCA staff will seek ways to strengthen its relationships to its members. To an even greater extent than is described in this annual report, the crime prevention initiatives underway in states and communities across the nation are many and varied. From national organizations to state agencies and associations to local community groups, CPCA 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 CPCA membership, please contact CPCA staff at [membership@ncpc.org](mailto:membership@ncpc.org).

# CPCA Partners and 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. CPCA partner and member organizations are catalyzing important actions in every state by implementing new programs and policies, changing attitudes and behavior, 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 a comprehensive list of effective crime prevention efforts throughout the United States. The ingenuity represented in these snapshots is something to celebrate. Read on for examples of how CPCA partner and member organizations are building a stronger America—one community at a time—by tackling crime, violence, substance abuse, and the roots of intolerance.

## PARTNER PROGRAMS

### Citizen 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 tragic events 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

Citizen Corps ([www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)) recognizes and upholds a variety of crime prevention and disaster preparedness in local communities.

*Contact*

**Jackie Snelling**

Department of Homeland Security

202-786-9577

[jacqueline.snelling@dhs.gov](mailto:jacqueline.snelling@dhs.gov)

## Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)

The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) celebrated its fifth anniversary on May 30, 2007. 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 the USA Freedom Corps. VIPS works to enhance the capacity of state, tribal, and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. These volunteers provide valuable services to law enforcement agencies, allowing them to respond more effectively to homeland security and other policing priorities. As of July 2007, nearly 1,600 registered programs were operating in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico. More than 102,000 volunteers are providing services within those programs.

IACP offers many no-cost resources to law enforcement agencies through its website, [www.policevolunteers.org](http://www.policevolunteers.org). The website includes a directory of law enforcement volunteer programs, a library of sample documents and forms, a model policy, publications, educational videos, and a discussion forum. VIPS also provides free training, technical assistance, and mentoring for law enforcement executives and volunteer managers on how to establish or enhance a volunteer program.

*Contact*

**Nancy Kolb**

International Association of Chiefs of Police

703-836-6767 or 1-800-THE-IACP, ext. 813

[kolbn@theiacp.org](mailto:kolbn@theiacp.org)

[www.policevolunteers.org](http://www.policevolunteers.org)

Examples of successful VIPS efforts are listed here.

### VIPS in Vacaville, CA

The Vacaville Police Department's volunteer program began more than 25 years ago and has grown significantly since June 2000. In 2006, its 60 volunteers provided 14,441 hours of service and 26 new volunteers graduated from the VIPS Training Academy in March 2007. Volunteers provide extra pairs of eyes, ears, and hands in the department's front office. Volunteers also work in crime prevention and senior wellness programs. In 2006, the police volunteers responded to three city-wide emergencies. Volunteers provided aid during flooding, informed seniors of available cooling centers via door-to-door notifications, and stuffed 10,000 envelopes to alert community members about a serial rapist.

#### *Contact*

**Susanne Johnson**

707-449-5434

[sjohnson@cityofvacaville.com](mailto:sjohnson@cityofvacaville.com)

### VIPS in Hazelwood, MO

The Citizen Volunteer Service/Citizen Observation Patrol Units at the Hazelwood Police Department provided 7,009 hours of service to the department in 2007 and over 22,000 hours since the program was reassessed in 2003. Volunteers ranging from 18 to 81 years old performed administrative and nonintervention policing activities such as entering traffic tickets in the database, handling confidential records, providing prisoner supervision and traffic control, assisting the criminal investigation division, and organizing Neighborhood Watch programs. The department also has volunteers involved in citizen observer patrol for the community and the St. Louis Mills Mall, the D.A.R.E. program in schools, victim services, municipal court services, and police vehicle maintenance.

#### *Contact*

**Donald Routh**

314-513-5208

[derouth@hazelwoodmo.org](mailto:derouth@hazelwoodmo.org)

### VIPS in Eugene, OR

The Eugene Police Department serves a population of approximately 145,000 citizens with a staff of 182 sworn officers and 118 civilian employees. The Volunteers in Policing program was created in 1999 and has 85 volunteers working on 40 different assignments, contributing 19,247 hours of volunteer service every year. Volunteers engage in many activities, including developing databases, helping with warrant verifications, gathering case materials, performing radar patrol, staffing booths at community events, role-playing during disaster preparedness and team training exercises, and providing chaplain services.

#### *Contact*

**Carrie Chouinard**

541-682-5355

[carrie.f.chouinard@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:carrie.f.chouinard@ci.eugene.or.us)

## VIPS in Hillsborough County, FL

Volunteers are a vital part of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. In 2007, their volunteers logged more than 14,000 hours and added value worth millions of dollars to the office and the community. Volunteers are placed in district offices, community substations, the records department, and the jail. Volunteers participate in the Sheriff's Tactical Amateur Radio Club and serve as reserve deputies and parking enforcement specialists. In 2005, a volunteer corps was created to review cold-case homicides and assist detectives in the criminal investigations division. In March 2007, the office welcomed its first class of citizen patrol volunteers. These volunteers serve as extra sets of eyes and ears and assist deputies by performing certain non-law enforcement tasks.

### *Contact*

**Deputy Faith Nadel**

813-247-8223

[fnadel@hcsso.tampa.fl.us](mailto:fnadel@hcsso.tampa.fl.us)

## VIPS in Oro Valley, AZ

The Volunteer Patrol Program in the Oro Valley Police Department has been active since July 1997. The program has 75 members who have donated 116,227 hours of service to date. The volunteer program allows the department to provide enhanced community services. The volunteers observe and record suspicious and criminal activity, provide dark house checks, assist with special event traffic control, conduct business security checks, and provide assistance to public safety officers at accident scenes or in other emergency situations. Volunteers provide educational information to children, private citizen groups, and public agencies using McGruff the Crime Dog®, as well as offer free fingerprinting for children. They encourage the use of crime prevention programs such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and assist with the Crime Free Multi-Housing project. The volunteers are also active in Neighborhood Watch, Video I.D., VIN etching, and the You Are Not Alone program.

### *Contact*

**Sergeant Amy Sloane**

520-229-5080

[asloane@ovpd.org](mailto:asloane@ovpd.org)

## Neighborhood Watch

### USAonWatch.org

Neighborhood Watch, celebrating its 35th year, continues to work on enhancing, expanding, and revitalizing watch programs throughout the country. USAonWatch.org is the face and web portal of the National Neighborhood Watch Program. The program is managed nationally by the National Sheriffs' Association in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Time-tested practices such as "eyes-and-ears" training and target-hardening techniques continue to be at the core of the program. USAonWatch provides information, training, technical support, and resources to local law enforcement agencies and citizens. As of July 2007, there were more than 25,000 Watch groups throughout the United States, as well as programs in more than eight countries.

As groups continue to grow, the roles of citizens have become more multifaceted and tailored to local needs. USAonWatch empowers citizens to become active in homeland security efforts through community participation. Many Neighborhood Watch groups have organized Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), participated in Citizen Corps Councils, and held community-wide events that celebrate successful local crime prevention initiatives. Neighborhood Watch groups have responded to the challenges of securing and strengthening their communities in a post-September 11th world. Groups throughout the country have taken on an expanded role beyond traditional crime prevention to help neighbors during disasters, emergencies, and other events in the community.

The USAonWatch project continues to offer training designed to enhance Neighborhood Watch activities by providing formal training for law enforcement, block captains, and community volunteers. The training utilizes the Neighborhood Watch Toolkit, which 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 tools. The tools, templates, and forms can be easily replicated or tailored to meet the individual needs of a local Neighborhood Watch organization. To date, training has been given to over 900 participants from 627 law enforcement agencies.

#### *Contact*

#### **Robbi Woodson**

National Sheriffs' Association

800-424-STAR (7827)

info@usaonwatch.org

www.usaonwatch.org

## North Las Vegas, NV

The City of North Las Vegas is one of the fastest growing areas in the country, with an estimated 1,300 new residents settling in every month. Although growth certainly affords benefits, it also carries with it an unfortunate byproduct: elevated crime rates. In an area that already carries the nickname "Sin City," law enforcement personnel are indeed facing heightened challenges. However, residents are taking charge of their neighborhoods and providing police with much-needed assistance.

Between 5,000 and 8,000 residents are estimated to be participating in Neighborhood Watch thanks to a surge in growth over the past two years. In addition, the number of block captains has also skyrocketed, growing from an average of 25 in 2005 to 360 in 2006. And it seems the trend will continue. In just the first month of 2007, 15 applications for block captains have already been submitted.

Perhaps the most notable success of the North Las Vegas Neighborhood Watch program is that it has sparked a greater enthusiasm among residents and empowered them to get involved with and take charge of their communities. One of the methods used to empower residents is education customized to meet the needs of individual neighborhoods. These meetings feature speakers who are brought in to discuss everything from conflict resolution to trends in local crime and ways residents can protect themselves from becoming victims.

The Community Services Division has the opportunity to give community feedback through an appreciation dinner and awards ceremony that is held each year to recognize the efforts of volunteers. Perfect attendance, block captain of the year, and coordinator of the year are among the awards distributed at the event. Each year the event grows and it is a great way for others to see the work everyone is doing in the community to keep each other safe.

*Contact*

**Soledad Garcia**

North Las Vegas Police Department  
702-633-1810  
garciaS1@cityofnorthlasvegas.com

## South Orange County, CA

As all communities face the threat of disasters and terrorism, the South Orange County Crime Prevention Unit developed a Disaster Preparedness Academy. The academy is an eight-week course made available to Neighborhood Watch members. The American Red Cross, Fire Authority, and ambulance services have joined with the unit to instruct citizens about different types of disasters, what they need to prepare for, and how to incorporate plans for their own neighborhoods. Participants are then certified in CPR and first aid. The goal is to give each Watch group the tools to provide a safe environment for their immediate neighborhoods.

Citizens are also given instruction about how to rid their neighborhoods of drug deals by utilizing the Nuisance Abatement Laws. The Crime Prevention Unit was the first group to test the law in court and win the case. This procedure instills the importance of working together to achieve positive results for everyone. The unit works hard to identify potential training and programs that the citizens need to assist them in making their communities better. Programs such as the Childhood Watch (safety program for students and their parents), Parent Project (a 10-week parent training model for parents of defiant, challenging adolescents), Senior Citizen safety seminars, and much more has enhanced public safety for citizens in South Orange County.

*Contact*

**Jan Sener**

Orange County Sheriff's Office  
senerj@san-clemente.org

## Oakland, CA

In 2005, the City of Oakland had 93 murders, aggravated assaults were up by 31 percent, and strong armed robbery had increased by 33 percent. Clearly, something was wrong. As a result, the Oakland City Council looked into many solutions, and one they felt would help was Neighborhood Watch. In May 2005, the City Council voted to revitalize the Neighborhood Watch program. The police department took the renewed interest in the program to heart and has increased the number of groups from 50 to 487 over the past two years.

The department has started a number of programs to assist in further building the city's relationship with citizens through Neighborhood Watch. Public service announcements have been utilized to recruit block captains. A block captain evaluation form has been used to determine department staff performance after group meetings. Department staff are required to contact all Neighborhood Watch captains in their beats and introduce themselves to let them know they are an available resource. A monthly Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee is convened to share information, network, and learn about specific topics that are of concern to the captains. The department and city focus on building partnerships with the citizens to decrease crime and address community issues. The city's commitment to the program is evident in its mission statement, "Every block is organized and every neighbor is skilled, networked, and empowered to work together and in partnership with the City to solve problems and build a healthy, resilient community."

*Contact*

**Claudia Albano**

Oakland Police Department  
510-238-6372  
calbano@oaklandnet.com

### Azalea Park Apartments Neighborhood Watch, Durham, NC

In only two years, the Azalea Park Apartments community has established itself as a model of excellence for other Neighborhood Watch communities in Durham, NC. Amply named for the hearty evergreen plant cultivated for its vibrant and colorful flowers, Azalea Park Apartments is in full bloom as a diverse and engaged Neighborhood Watch group with a mission to motivate and empower residents to work collaboratively with law enforcement to improve and sustain neighborhood safety.

The 108-unit complex, originally built in 1976, suffered extensive fire damage to 16 units in December 2004 as a result of arson. As building reconstruction progressed over 17 months, apartment management and the Durham Police Department worked seamlessly to improve physical environs and boost community spirit. Since holding its first meeting, the group has grown to include 21 block captains representative of the communities' cultural diversity.

Since 2005, the quality of life at Azalea Park has significantly improved. From January to July 2005, there were 154 calls for service, which included calls for breaking and entering, damage to property, larceny, and gun shots. Calls for service for January through July of 2006 experienced a significant drop to 46 calls for service, an outstanding achievement attributable to the community's commitment to its Neighborhood Watch program. The support and follow-through of the Azalea Park management has been key to the success of its Neighborhood Watch. Management has been committed to conducting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments yearly and to completing at least one upgrade per year. To date, the management has completed six CPTED upgrades which have cost approximately \$20,000.

*Contact*

**Donna Brustad**

Azalea Park Apartments  
azaleaparkapts@nc.rr.com

### Derby Hills Neighborhood Watch, Campbell County, OH

The mission of the Derby Hills Neighborhood Watch is to provide a safe environment for people to live in. The group lives out their mission by providing foot patrols during the evening and special holidays in an

effort to recognize, report, and often deter criminal activity; by holding monthly group meetings in which a member of the Campbell County Police Department is present; and by offering various training to members of the group or interested individuals in the neighborhood.

The group has been very successful since forming. During fall 2005, one of the Watch captains observed two subjects carrying stereo equipment down the street. The captain then called the police to report the incident. In the meantime, the subjects noticed the captain, dropped the stereo equipment, and fled the area. Police responded and gathered enough information to file charges. On another occasion, there was a report of a juvenile who had run away from home. Campbell County Police relayed the information to the group and a member observed the juvenile and contacted police. The police returned the juvenile safely.

Derby Hills Neighborhood Watch has been a huge success for the community making it a safer and better place to live. The group has even been featured in local newspapers promoting their success and value to the community.

*Contact*

**Lt. Barrett Champagne**

Campbell County Police Department  
bchampagne@campbellcountky.org

## Elder Watch, Allouez, WI

According to the latest census statistics, more than 12 percent of the U.S. population—or 35 million Americans—are 65 years or older. By the year 2010, this number is expected to surge to over 40 million. The Village of Allouez, WI, a suburb of Green Bay, is no stranger to this trend. In fact, its sizable senior population sparked the creation of a program that is devoted specifically to these residents.

The Elder Watch program serves as an extension of the village's active Neighborhood Watch program. With a population of roughly 15,000, the Village has 37 Neighborhood Watch groups with a total membership of 2,100. In conjunction with law enforcement, these groups hold monthly meetings that provide attendees information on crime prevention and current crime statistics and offer them an opportunity to voice their concerns about neighborhood-related issues.

Elder Watch calls for volunteers to keep in regular contact with the senior resident with whom they are paired. Initially, this contact consists of a weekly phone call to check on the welfare of the elderly individual or consumer. Volunteers are required to undergo a thorough background check and participate in a three-hour training session that is conducted by Advisory Committee members along with representatives from the sheriff's department, fire department, and other public safety offices. In the course of this training, facilitators use a variety of tools, including slideshow presentations, handouts, and question and answer sessions, to instruct participants on topics relevant to caring for elderly individuals. How to recognize abuse and neglect, how to help them maintain and organize their medications effectively, and how best to assist rescue personnel in emergency situations are featured topics. One segment of the training, for instance, suggests helping consumers post a list of medications they are taking on their front door in order to assist rescue personnel in the event of an emergency.

*Contact*

**Deputy John Flannery**

Brown County Sheriff's Department  
920-448-4200

## NATIONAL PROGRAMS

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

The Safe Place program offers the first step to help for any young person at risk of abuse, neglect, or serious problems. More than 205,000 youth have made the decision to seek help at one of the nearly 16,000 Safe Place locations or have contacted a youth shelter agency after learning about Safe Place at their schools.

Businesses and community buildings such as fire stations and libraries are designated as “Safe Place” sites. Any youth in crisis can walk into one of the nearly 16,000 Safe Places across the country and ask an employee for help. These locations display the yellow, diamond-shaped Safe Place sign prominently. Inside, employees are trained and prepared to assist any young person asking for help. Youth who go to a Safe Place location are quickly connected to the nearby youth shelter. The shelter then provides the counseling and support necessary to reunify family members and develop a plan to address the issues presented by the youth and family.

In addition to providing youth in crisis immediate access to help and safety at community locations, the visibility of Safe Place signs makes the community more aware of some of the issues that young people experience. As consumers enter these neighborhood markets or convenience stores, the Safe Place sign is a constant reminder that keeping young people safe is everyone’s responsibility.

The role of law enforcement in the delivery of Safe Place services to young people and the community is increasing. Safe Place programs in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia designate police stations or vehicles as Safe Place sites. Safe Place coordinators participate in police department roll calls to educate law enforcement officers about the services of Safe Place shelters and the availability of Safe Place locations within the community. National Safe Place offers a video to introduce law enforcement officers to the program and demonstrate procedures that can be followed should a youth need help. Officers are also equipped with Safe Place information cards that include details about the youth shelter, Safe Place, and the National Runaway Switchboard. Police provided Safe Place transportation for 722 young people in the last year.

During the last year, National Safe Place provided School Resource Officers in all Safe Place communities with a total of 100,000 *Talk . . . Don’t Run* brochures. This brochure offers tips for parents about preventing their children from running away, the warning signs that might indicate that a youth is contemplating running away from home, and tips for teens encouraging them to ask for help as well as the value of effective communication to avoid difficulties.

The success of Safe Place is contingent upon each generation of young people understanding that the Safe Place sign is a symbol of immediate help and safety and that seeking help is a better resolution to their crises than running. Safe Place empowers young people to seek help earlier in their crises, before they escalate, making it easier for shelter staff to bring about a positive resolution in a shorter period of time. In many instances, it eliminates inappropriate placements in the juvenile justice or other such systems, saving taxpayer dollars.

#### *Contact*

#### **Sandy Bowen**

National Safe Place

502-635-3660

sbowen@nationalsafeplace

www.nationalsafeplace.org

## McGruff® Club Keeps Children Safe in Las Cruces, NM: Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS)

When the National Crime Prevention Council launched McGruff Club in early 2006, the Las Cruces Public School system enthusiastically requested to be part of the pilot program. McGruff Club is a unique crime prevention program that educates children ages six to ten about personal safety, engages them in projects to make their communities safer, and fosters positive relationships among children and law enforcement. LCPS needed a program for younger children that would address the wide range of issues they face (including bullying and staying safe in the neighborhood). LCPS decided to begin the program by implementing it only in fourth-grade classes.

The Titles I and IV coordinator for LCPS, Dennis Zamora, organized a training course in late May 2006. The teachers, counselors, administrators, and police officers who participated were so impressed with the program that they recommended that students in other grades be able to take part and also that the program be implemented in all the elementary schools in the system. A McGruff Club planning committee was formed to determine how the program could be implemented in grades one through four.

The McGruff Club planning committee began implementing McGruff Club in Fall 2006. The program was facilitated primarily by counselors who worked with all grades within the school. The counselors found that McGruff Club activities were easy to implement; that children enjoyed the interactive lessons; and that children were learning to manage bullying, conflict, and dangers in the neighborhood. Mr. Zamora, hearing the positive feedback from the counselors, decided to pursue a plan to implement McGruff Club in all 25 elementary schools by the following school year. By Spring 2007, 16 elementary schools had implemented the program.

One goal of McGruff Club is to foster relationships among children and law enforcement. As the school year began, the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office received many requests for McGruff appearances at elementary schools that were implementing McGruff Club. The McGruff the Crime Dog costume owned by the sheriff's office was old and not in the best condition, so the school system funded the purchase of new McGruff and Scruff costumes.

Las Cruces Public Schools continues to pursue its goal of implementing McGruff Club in all 25 elementary schools, for all children in grades one through four. The school system's success to date can be attributed to the commitment of staff at all levels (classroom teachers and counselors, school principals, and administrators at the district level) to using McGruff Club to educate children about safety. A second element that led to success is their willingness to put resources—financial support and personal time and effort—into growing and sustaining this program. Their success is also due to the outreach they have conducted to the larger community. By involving the sheriff's office from the start, they gained a valuable partner for implementation.

### *Contact*

#### **Children and Youth Department**

National Crime Prevention Council

202-466-6272

[www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)

## Uniting Against Insurance Fraud

With so many Americans using the Internet as a primary source of news and information, the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud has created a website, [www.InsuranceFraud.org](http://www.InsuranceFraud.org), that serves as a vibrant one-stop

source of consumer information about fraud. A library of consumer alerts details insurance schemes that victimize people. They include topics such as agent fraud, airbag scams, and fake health insurance, as well as other topics. The schemes are outlined along with warning signals, how the schemes damage people, and how consumers can fight back.

Many people view insurance fraud as an impersonal, victimless crime. The coalition gives fraud a human face through online story-telling. This helps people see how fraud directly affects them, and society, in highly personal terms. To this end, the online *Insurance Fraud Hall of Shame* highlights the most brazen, vicious, tragic, or plain knuckleheaded schemers of the previous year, such as a doctor who diluted her patients' life-saving cancer medicines but billed insurers for full doses, or the woman who tried to shake down a restaurant for a large insurance payout by planting a mouse in her chili.

Similarly, the popular online *Fraud of the Month* details an especially brazen scheme from the previous month. The coalition also posts fraud news stories twice a day on its homepage and has posted an up-to-date list of state and federal anti-fraud agencies consumers can call toll-free to report suspected insurance schemes. An online newsroom gives reporters access to a detailed list of story ideas and the latest fraud trends. The Hall of Shame and Fraud of the Month also generate many story ideas, especially among TV reporters, by humanizing this financial crime. The coalition's FraudBlog—the only one like it in the United States—gives people a chance to talk openly and candidly about fraud issues with executive director Dennis Jay. It's an effective way to educate people through credible, personal, online "fireside chats."

Insurance fraud costs an estimated \$80 billion in stolen insurance money annually, according to estimates by the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud. To help people make sense of this huge number, the coalition translates it into terms people can more easily appreciate. Did you know that \$80 billion would fund the U.S. space program for five years? Pay income taxes for 7.4 million Americans for a year? Pay healthcare costs for nearly two of three Americans over age 65 for a year? Fund all cancer research in America for the next 13 years?

#### Contact

#### **Dennis Jay**

Coalition Against Insurance Fraud  
202-393-7333  
dennisjay@InsuranceFraud.org  
www.InsuranceFraud.org

## Providing Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance in Crime Prevention

The State Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance 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, delivers technical assistance through an interactive approach, and assists states in building or enhancing crime prevention entities that will institutionalize prevention strategies and policies to serve the needs of communities.

There are six states in the program for 2007: Montana, Nevada, New York, Illinois, Georgia, and Rhode Island. The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) will mentor each state by providing one-on-one technical assistance involving experienced peers from other states to target specific needs. As each need is addressed, NCPC staff produces concrete action plans that yield measurable results. Each action plan is developed using the expertise of seasoned professionals in the crime prevention field.

*Contact*

**Training Department**

National Crime Prevention Council

202-466-6272

training@ncpc.org

www.ncpc.org

## **PEN OR PENCIL National B.U.S. Boycott**

The PEN OR PENCIL B.U.S. BOYCOTT is a national service-learning movement designed and launched by the National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ) and partners to help youth connect history's injustices and fight for equality with today's growing challenges. NAFJ conceptualized the PEN OR PENCIL B.U.S. Boycott as a way to expand the creativity of service learning by providing a template that values and links the sacrifices of history with opportunities to address pressing juvenile justice problems.

PEN stands for penitentiary and PENCIL stands for education, the two rival choices for many youth today. The idea behind the program is to encourage students to choose the "pencil" over the "pen." B.U.S. is an acronym for building unbalanced systems, which refers to the burden placed on the lives of youth who choose to drop out of school and take the road to incarceration.

Students participating in the program agree to boycott violence for 40 days. During the boycotts, students are encouraged to refrain from behavior that would involve criminal acts, truancy, bullying, drugs and alcohol, and unexcused absences. By participating in the B.U.S. Boycott, students sign Freedom of Choice Agreements, making a commitment to retain their seats in the classroom and not in prison by refraining from acts that would lead to negative contact with law enforcement. Students also agree to community service and nonviolence, core components of the program, while keeping in mind an understanding of the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., along with the actions of other figures in the Civil Rights Movement. All students in grades five through 12 can participate in this boycott.

The program's kick-off took place during October 2007, National Crime Prevention Month, at Central High School, High Point, NC, through the Communities in Schools program. The 40-day Central High School boycott ended on December 2, when students journeyed from High Point to Washington, DC, to extend the direct challenge to begin boycotts on the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service to two Washington, DC, metro-area high schools. The 2008 B.U.S. Boycotts will occur between the dates that mark the deaths of Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Other national partners and organizations that provided in-kind or financial support include the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, the National Crime Prevention Council, and the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice. NAFJ is a nonprofit association of criminal justice professionals and community leaders whose mission is to promote the value of the inclusion of faith in addressing prevention, consequences, and resolutions of crime with emphasis upon the most culpable and vulnerable issues and stakeholders.

*Contact*

**Addie L. Richburg**

National Alliance of Faith and Justice

703-765-4459

office@nafj.org

www.nafj.org

## STATE PROGRAMS

### Alabama

#### Alabama Success Story: Bellingrath Jr. High School Youth Crime Watch

The Alabama Crime Prevention Clearinghouse (ACPC), located at Auburn University at Montgomery in Montgomery, AL, works to deliver crime prevention services and training to assist law enforcement, state agencies, community groups, schools, and others to remove or reduce the opportunity for crime in the State of Alabama. The Youth Crime Watch of America (YCWA) Alabama Expansion Center is a program under the ACPC. The YCWA Alabama Expansion Center has established 25 sites, which includes 24 school-based sites and one community-based site. The YCWA Alabama Expansion Center has successfully partnered with Montgomery Area CrimeStoppers to promote CrimeStoppers in schools.

Several years ago, Bellingrath Junior High School in Montgomery, AL, was constantly in the news because of fights and gang-related problems on its campus. Parents were upset and threatened to pull their children out of school. Many students did not like going to Bellingrath Jr. High because they felt unsafe due to the school's bad reputation. That all changed when Susan Moss, Director of the Montgomery Area CrimeStoppers, told the Bellingrath's guidance counselor about Youth Crime Watch. Ms. Moss and a group of students attended YCWA implementation training sessions sponsored by the Alabama Crime Prevention Clearinghouse at Auburn University at Montgomery in February 2002 and in January 2003.

Since the YCWA program was implemented at Bellingrath Jr. High, crime, drugs, and gang-related offenses at the school have been drastically reduced. During the first few years of the program, school officials confiscated a large amount of drugs and numerous weapons (including a few guns) thanks to the school's new anonymous tip line and cash rewards from CrimeStoppers. The number of tips and arrests went from 20 to 30 during the first couple of years after implementation to only one during the 2006–2007 school year. YCWA students have been trained in peer mediation and operate the school's Youth Patrol, acting as extra eyes and ears for the administration and helping other students resolve conflicts. Thanks to the YCWA program, students at Bellingrath Jr. High feel safer and the entire school has a more positive atmosphere than it did in the past. Last year, Bellingrath Jr. High YCWA students were recognized by the Alabama State Senate, Alabama State House of Representatives, and the governor of Alabama. Bellingrath Jr. High has served as an inspiration to the other YCWA schools, and school staff members frequently offer advice to other schools implementing the YCWA program.

#### *Contact*

#### **Linda Wright**

Alabama Crime Prevention Clearinghouse  
Auburn University at Montgomery  
334-244-3961  
lwright3@mail.aum.edu

### California

#### Responsible Adults: Safe Teens Public Awareness Campaign

The California Attorney General's Office and the Office of Traffic Safety recently launched a statewide effort to reduce underage drinking and the tragic consequences of underage drinking and driving. The Responsible Adults: Safe Teens (RAST) statewide public awareness campaign, which is administered by the Attorney General's Crime and Violence Prevention Center, has two goals. The first is to encourage parents and other

adults not to provide alcohol to minors, and they did this by promoting the theme, “Think through it. Don’t do it.” In addition, the campaign will seek to raise public awareness of the Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies (TRACE) program that operates within the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), in collaboration with state and local law enforcement agencies. With TRACE, the ABC investigators “trace” the source of the alcohol provided to minors who have been involved in traffic collisions that result in serious injury or death. Those responsible for providing the alcohol are held accountable for breaking the law.

The RAST campaign includes television, radio, and theater spots; paid and public service advertising; direct-mail pieces; brochures; and other print materials. The paid advertising and the regional workshops are offered in targeted areas throughout California, including in Humboldt/Trinity counties, Sacramento/Yolo counties, Fresno/Tulare counties, the Los Angeles/San Diego region, and the Bay area. The campaign is funded by a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety. For more information about the RAST campaign and to view or listen to the RAST television, radio, and theater commercials, visit the Crime and Violence Prevention Center’s website.

#### *Contact*

#### **Wendy Tully**

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program

Crime and Violence Prevention Center

California Attorney General’s Office

916-323-2166

Wendy.Tully@doj.ca.gov

[www.safestate.org/TRACE](http://www.safestate.org/TRACE)

## **Honoring a Puppeteer Who Promotes Crime Prevention: California Crime Prevention Officers’ Association**

The California Crime Prevention Officers’ Association’s 33rd Annual State Training Conference was held in San Diego, CA, in September 2007. During the conference, John Reed, a retired Santa Ana, CA, police officer, was honored with the California Crime Prevention Officers’ Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award for his passion and use of puppets to help keep young people in school and out of trouble with the law. In 1980, while he was a patrol officer, Officer Reed started delivering his message to children that they should stay away from drugs. By 1983, Reed had learned how to be a ventriloquist and added several puppets to his presentation, including Short Stuff McGruff, the crime-prevention mascot. Word spread about an officer who used puppets to get his message across and requests from schools poured in. In 1986, he helped start the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program in Santa Ana schools. Over the years, his work has touched the lives of more than 15,000 students. Officer Reed retired in 1996 after 28 years with the Santa Ana Police Department. He continues to bring his message about the importance of staying in school and avoiding drugs and gangs to area school children.

The California Crime Prevention Officers’ Association maintains a strong membership of over 450 and provides a leadership role in the crime prevention field within the state of California. It is committed to providing its members with the latest information, resources, tools, and techniques in the prevention field to assist prevention professionals in the performance of their duties and to establish a consistency in the dissemination of information to the public by crime prevention and other professionals. The California Crime Prevention Officers’ Association provides this information through annual and semi-annual training conferences, as well as through regular meetings.

*Contact*

**Jeff Rodrigues**

California Crime Prevention Officers' Association

916-874-2736

[jrodrigues@sacsheriff.com](mailto:jrodrigues@sacsheriff.com)

## Florida

### Preventing Crime in Florida: Florida Crime Prevention Association

The Florida Crime Prevention Association (FCPA) was founded in 1969, which makes it one of the oldest crime prevention associations in the United States. Today, the FCPA serves as a clearinghouse for state and national crime prevention and community policing training and resources. The membership represents a diverse group of law enforcement agencies, government offices, businesses, faith-based communities, and resident groups. FCPA serves the entire state of Florida.

FCPA recently introduced a new train-the-trainer program for C.A.S.E. (Communities Against Senior Exploitation) and now has trained 24 counties to offer this program in their communities. FCPA is developing a bank robbery prevention train-the-trainer program that will be introduced in 2007. In addition to these two programs, FCPA is developing a mentoring program for agencies throughout Florida that either do not have a crime prevention program or have a small program and are in need of assistance. The mentor program is designed to help agencies put together crime prevention units and will provide them with the necessary training, tools, and support to make their programs a success. FCPA is implementing a new marketing strategy to better “brand” the association. To accomplish this, FCPA is working with a local marketing company to redesign its logo and create a plan of action to make FCPA a household name in the state. The “new look” was unveiled at the 38th Annual Training Conference, which was held in Fort Lauderdale, FL, in October 2007.

*Contact*

**Keith Stripling**

Florida Crime Prevention Association

863-763-6064

[crimepreventionunit@sheriff.co.okeechobee.fl.us](mailto:crimepreventionunit@sheriff.co.okeechobee.fl.us)

### Youth Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County, Florida

Youth Crime Watch (YCW) of Miami-Dade County is a program of Citizens' Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The mission of the YCW of Miami-Dade County educational program is to foster a safe school environment that influences student well-being through awareness and involvement. This youth crime prevention program is available to all Miami-Dade County public schools to help youth develop proactive strategies to create safe schools for all students.

More than 100 Miami-Dade County public schools implemented YCW programs (clubs) during the 2006–2007 school year. YCW school coordinators are crime prevention practitioners certified by the Office of the Attorney General of Florida and are trained to conduct innovative crime prevention training sessions that address the school's particular safety needs. Initially, a diagnostic study is conducted by YCW using a wide array of research tools to prioritize the school's crime prevention educational requirements. Later, the YCW program training is conducted with the school advisor and student members to teach them to implement a structured YCW phase-by-phase approach while informing them which crime prevention topics to address. The YCW school programs then coordinate various activities, events, and campaigns for youth to educate their peers on crime prevention and school safety during the school year. This innovative YCW of Miami-Dade “train-the-trainer” approach has been successful in youth crime prevention education and in curbing

school crime. It is a model system that has been used by other youth crime prevention agencies. YCW constantly collaborates with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Police Department in numerous crime prevention and school safety endeavors.

YCW's innovative crime prevention curriculum reaches more than 33,000 students and incorporates a multitude of crime prevention topics and resources, including reporting crimes, bullying prevention, stranger danger, drug prevention, gun awareness, cybersafety, anger management, auto theft prevention, bicycle safety, character education, conflict resolution, dating violence, gangs, graffiti/vandalism, homeland security, identity theft, impaired driving, peer mediation, personal safety, and school violence.

The National Crime Prevention Council and McGruff the Crime Dog play a vital role in the YCW program. McGruff is extremely visible in the schools, and he was utilized in 43 presentations/assemblies during the past school year. Throughout the last 10 years, McGruff has appeared in nearly 900 YCW presentations/assemblies in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. McGruff also appears in many community youth safety events coordinated or attended by the YCW of Miami-Dade County. Crime prevention materials are disseminated to youth and their parents at the schools and community events. School crime statistics constantly demonstrate that schools in which YCW has a high presence have low crime rates.

#### *Contact*

#### **Carmen Caldwell**

Citizens' Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County

305-470-1670

HiaL1211@aol.com

## **Georgia**

### **Strengthening the Georgia Crime Prevention Association**

In Fall 2006, the Georgia Crime Prevention Association (GCPA) was invited to participate in the State Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance Program (see page 20), in which the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) mentors certain states by providing one-on-one technical assistance using experienced peers from other states to target specific needs. At the 2006 training session, representatives from GCPA and a peer-to-peer consultant decided to focus on strategies to strengthen the infrastructure of GCPA. They looked critically at the current status of the association and retraced the historical "mishaps" and successes that caused the membership to decrease from 150–200 members in the late 1980s and mid-1990s to a core group of five to six people who were struggling to sustain GCPA. The following reasons were cited for the decline in membership.

- The decrease in federal and state funding in the mid-1990s affected the membership as departments tried to cope with the increase in crime and challenges of recruiting police personnel.
- A dependency on one corporate sponsor for several years resulted in the members becoming complacent about outreach and marketing efforts.
- Sporadic training opportunities or the lack of a consistent dissemination of educational materials made the association lose status in the public eye and in the eyes of many of its members.
- Political infighting divided the membership.

The peer-to-peer representatives went back to Georgia with a renewed purpose. Refusing to allow the past to repeat itself, they took advantage of the community-oriented policing momentum throughout Georgia, with departments addressing both crimes that plague citizens and preventive strategies to help them. GCPA focused on the training needs of crime prevention professionals while educating Georgia's citizens on the latest strategies and initiatives to combat crimes such as identity theft and cyber crimes through workshops and quarterly newsletters.

The association is also committed to addressing the latest criminal challenges that affect the quality of life for Georgia's citizens and have an impact on the delivery of police and crime prevention services. After a rash of commercial robberies, the association partnered with several local police agencies and held a workshop in June to look at patterns, trends, and strategies. More than 40 participants attended the workshop and the feedback was very positive and encouraging. The association continues to build a solid foundation.

Thus far, the project is on track to achieve its two- and three-year goals. The association's biggest challenge is monetary. In order to recruit members and reestablish a solid reputation, the association has decided not to charge for any workshops (which will be offered quarterly) in order to help build a pool of recruits. GCPA held a recruitment session and membership meeting at NCPC's 8th National Conference on Preventing Crime to garner new members and provide a networking opportunity for current members.

*Contact*

**Juanita Smith**

Georgia Crime Prevention Association

404-344-4549

JuSmith@AtlantaGa.gov

## Hawaii

### ID Theft Trainer's Manual: Your Identity Is Your Kuleana

Hawaiians are not immune to the crime of identity theft. In fact, identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the state of Hawaii. To help protect Hawaii's citizens and educate them about identity theft, in June 2007 the *ID Theft Trainer's Manual* was published by the Hawaii State Department of the Attorney General's Hawaii Internet and Technology Crimes (HITeC) Unit, Criminal Justice Division and Community and Crime Prevention Branch, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division.

The *ID Theft Trainer's Manual* provides law enforcement and community trainers with a standard identity theft prevention presentation; copies of Hawaii's identity theft laws; and handouts on identity theft, national and state resources, fraud alert flowcharts, an identity theft affidavit, and victimization log. A CD-ROM also accompanies the manual to provide trainers with an electronic file copy of the materials. The manual is intended to be used as a guide to supplement and/or enhance a trainer's presentation.

After the launch, statewide training sessions were scheduled on the islands of Maui, Oahu, Kauai, and Hawaii. The training sessions included a step-by-step review of the manual and its contents, presentation on the new Hawaii state identity theft laws, and a presentation from each of the county police departments to provide participants with a local perspective on how identity theft has an impact on their community and what community members and law enforcement can do to address this insidious crime.

The trainer's manual, entitled, *Your Identity Is Your Kuleana* ("Kuleana" means "privilege" or "responsibility" in Hawaiian), was researched, designed, and compiled by the Community and Crime Prevention Branch staff. Funding for the production of the manuals was provided by state general funds and federal funds received from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

*Contact*

**Valerie Mariano**

Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division

Hawaii State Department of the Attorney General

808-586-1150

Valerie.S.Mariano@hawaii.gov

www.hawaii.gov/ag/cpja

## Idaho

### Celebrating 25 Years of Crime Prevention: The Idaho Crime Prevention Association

The Idaho Crime Prevention Association celebrated its 25th anniversary in October 2006, with a crime prevention conference, “Safer Communities Through Partnerships,” in Sun Valley, ID. ICPA partnered with the Idaho Chiefs of Police Association, the Idaho Sheriff’s Association, the Idaho Attorney General’s Office, the Governor’s Task Force for Children at Risk, the Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association, and the Idaho School Resource Officers’ Association for this conference.

The focus of the conference was on how communities working together can keep children safe. Two plenary sessions were held with keynote speakers Ken Lanning, a retired FBI profiler, and Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman, an expert in the field of human aggression and the causes of violent crime. Mr. Lanning’s plenary session was on child predators, identification, investigation, and prosecution, and Lt. Col. Grossman presented on child violence and the causes of violent crime. Workshops were offered on sexual victimization of children, child death review, stewards of children, disorderly youth in public places, Internet safety, Amber Alert and runaways, building private and public partnerships, resource sharing, and networking.

The Idaho Crime Prevention Association partnered with the National Crime Prevention Council. NCPC President and Chief Executive Officer Alfonso E. Lenhardt was a guest speaker and presenter at the awards banquet. The conference also offered attendees the opportunity to network and share resources. Attendees included law enforcement, social workers, school resource officers, school administrators, and crime prevention specialists. Partnering with government and law enforcement has a positive effect in preventing crime; this conference proved to be crime prevention at its best.

#### *Contact*

#### **Elena Vigil**

Idaho Crime Prevention Association  
208-468-5571  
vigile@ci.nampa.id.us

## Kentucky

### Kentucky’s i-JAM Program to Keep Kids Safe Online

Kentucky is going right to the source in the fight to keep kids safe online—the Internet itself—with an innovative program called i-JAM (Internet Jam). The program is a combination of middle and high school assemblies and day-long Internet safety events that involve local law enforcement, educators, and state government offices. i-JAM promotes safe and responsible virtual living through heightened awareness of documented online behavior and educates adults to become part of the online community in order to help provide a balance and perspective between the face-to-face world and the online world.

The concept for i-JAM was born in August 2006, as a statewide event to raise awareness of child victimization and responsible virtual living to kick off Kentucky Safe Schools Week 2006. The original event was funded through a partnership of the Kentucky Attorney General’s Office of Consumer Protection, the Kentucky Center for School Safety, the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition, and the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children. By presenting information researched from MySpace and other Internet sites popular with youth at school assemblies and community events, i-Jam raises awareness and education efforts to a real and personal level. When developers return to these same profiles and websites after the events, kids have removed personal information, photos, and obscenity, creating safer sites for themselves.

In addition to school assemblies, i-JAM community events provide a mix of speakers and targeted workshops that focus on the cyber crime and cyber culture issues inherent in today's virtual environment that are integral to true digital literacy. Victims of cyber crime provide a personal look into the problems of being victimized. Experts demonstrate how the anytime/anywhere, always-on, and always-connected world is changing and influencing (both positively and negatively) the world in which we live, making the case that adults need to become more—not less—involved in the online environment to keep themselves and their families safe. The i-JAM program has demonstrated such success that it is offering services beyond the state of Kentucky.

*Contact*

**Dorris Settles**

info@i-jam.org

www.i-JAM.org

### Providing Safety Awareness for Everyone: The Georgetown Police Department

The Georgetown Police Department in Georgetown, KY, is dedicated to establishing and maintaining partnerships with the citizens and businesses of its community. Through its community policing approach, law enforcement and citizens work together to reduce the threat of crime, enhance their sense of safety and security, and positively influence the quality of life in Georgetown.

The Georgetown Police Department began the Kids, Cops, and Community Program in February 2007. This program serves the families in the Georgetown Housing Authority and provides safety education and awareness to children of all ages. Through this program, children engage in hands-on activities with police officers that give them a better understanding of the police officer's role in the community and through which they learn about safety, teamwork, anger management, and bullying prevention. In the process, children become more comfortable with the police.

Georgetown's first Neighborhood Watch began in 2005. Since then, the number has increased to seven active watches and many more are currently forming. Involvement with the Neighborhood Watch program led to the implementation of the McGruff® House Program. With the heightened awareness of child predators, bullying, and other concerns, Neighborhood Watch members were more than willing to partner with police to provide a safe zone for children. At this time, Georgetown has 26 McGruff Houses and five approved McGruff Homes that are awaiting training. School bus drivers are trained on the McGruff House program and are given the locations of the homes so that they can point them out to children on their routes.

The implementation of the Citizens' Police Academy in 2005 has resulted in 59 people partnering with the Georgetown Police Department to learn about law enforcement's role in the community. Of the 59, approximately 23 Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) groups actively support the police department and its efforts to reach out to the community. The Georgetown Police Department is in the early stages of a new program called Adopt a Senior to develop and implement crime prevention and education programs for older individuals. When an officer "adopts" a senior, he or she agrees to telephone and visit the assigned senior once a week. This provides an outside contact for isolated seniors and is an informal way for them to learn about crime prevention.

*Contact*

**Officer Natalie Payne**

Georgetown Police Department

502-863-7826

Natalie.payne@georgetownpolice.org

## Maryland

### Focusing on Prevention Strategies for Youth in Maryland: The Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute

The Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute (MCCPI) is committed to the development and implementation of programs to ensure the safety and well-being of the youth of Maryland. To address the large number of requests for crime prevention programs, materials, and information related to youth, MCCPI—a unit of the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services—secured a new full-time position for a youth crime prevention specialist in 2004. This increased staffing allowed MCCPI to conduct a two-day training program, *Youth Crime Prevention: Focusing on Current Trends*. This program met with great success and was replicated in three other areas of the state. Updated and expanded “current trends” programs are now developed and presented annually.

MCCPI also expanded the use of the McGruff and Scruff® costumes to focus on crime prevention at school and community appearances. Interested law enforcement and community members were encouraged to attend and participate in MCCPI’s annual training in the use of the McGruff and Scruff characters in public awareness efforts. As word of MCCPI’s youth crime prevention efforts spread, more requests for presentations were received on a variety of youth crime prevention topics, including child safety, bullying, dangers of drugs, and Internet safety. These presentations were made to groups such as elementary and middle schools, parent-teacher associations, and Boy and Girl Scouts.

MCCPI also works to improve youth safety through its enhanced Youth Initiatives Planning Committee of the Maryland Crime Prevention Association, chaired by the current MCCPI youth crime prevention specialist, Ann Thacker. Key partners in the youth initiative are the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, Howard County Police Department, Frederick County Sheriff’s Office, Aberdeen Proving Ground Police Department, Montgomery County Police Department, and Baltimore County Police Department. The Committee’s effort began with the development of a youth crime prevention needs survey that was distributed to youth in targeted areas. A one-day workshop, *Youth Tools “Four” Success*, was developed to address the four main topics requested by youth: peer pressure, self-confidence, conflict resolution, and gang prevention. One of the unique features of the workshops was the involvement of the PAVE (Project Anti-Violence Effort) counselors (volunteer youth between 12 and 17 years old) in conducting the program.

The program’s kick-off took place on March 10, 2007, at Aberdeen Proving Ground and was attended by 63 youth and adults. The evaluations received were very positive, and efforts to present a follow-up youth workshop in Aberdeen based on topics requested in the attendee evaluations are in progress. Additional *Tools “Four” Success* workshops have been held in Frederick, Baltimore, and Howard counties this year.

Another important component in MCCPI’s youth crime prevention efforts is administration of the State Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) coordinator’s office. Currently D.A.R.E. is taught by 29 law enforcement agencies in 173 schools in 16 Maryland jurisdictions. In 2007, the Maryland state D.A.R.E. coordinator’s office instituted a new program, the D.A.R.E. Community Outreach Project, as a tool to provide programming to several local schools that have no other D.A.R.E. instructor resources. Three D.A.R.E.-certified members of the Maryland State D.A.R.E. office coordinated with school administrators to teach a cycle of the D.A.R.E. elementary program at three parochial elementary schools in Baltimore County. This program was also met with much success and will be repeated during the 2007–2008 school year.

#### Contact

#### **Patricia Sill**

Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute

410-875-3425

PSill@dpsc.state.md.us

## Keeping Frostburg State University Crime Free: The Frostburg State University Police Department

The Frostburg State University (FSU) Police Department in Frostburg, MD, embraces the philosophy that prevention of crime is too important to be assigned to just one individual or division. As such, each of the 17 university police officers serves as a crime prevention officer and completes at least four crime prevention activities each semester; many exceed the minimum. Their activities cover the basic topics of personal safety, rape prevention, drug and alcohol education, theft prevention, residential and commercial security, as well as other topics tailored specifically to college populations. Officers provide crime prevention information in classrooms, over the airwaves, on the Internet, and through demonstrations. According to University Police Chief Brian Shanley, the department is composed of highly qualified and motivated police officers who are all unique individuals with different personalities and interests in the field of crime prevention.

Student events, a problem at some colleges, are rarely an issue at FSU. To ensure that “late nights” take place safely, a risk management plan specifying minimum safety requirements is required for every event that concludes after midnight. The sponsoring group must present its plan for university police approval. Typically, such events involve patron identification, both private security and a university police presence, the use of metal detectors, and a ban on alcohol. In addition to their educational efforts, officers conduct quarterly inspections of university facilities, making sure that lighting is adequate, shrubbery is trimmed back, and locks are functioning properly.

The Frostburg State University police have been recognized 19 times by the governor of Maryland for FSU’s overall, exceptional crime prevention programs. But Chief Shanley emphasizes that university-wide cooperation is key. “Crime prevention is not solely a police department function,” he says. “We would not have had the success we have had without the cooperation of our student services, residence life, physical plant departments, and especially, our excellent student body.”

### *Contact*

#### **Chief Brian Shanley**

Frostburg State University

BShanley@frostburg.edu

301-687-4328

## Minnesota

### Minnesota Crime Prevention Highlights: The Minnesota Crime Prevention Association

The Minnesota Crime Prevention Association (MCPA), established in 1973, is a statewide, nonprofit organization of citizens, law enforcement officers, and crime prevention practitioners who work together to promote, develop, and advance crime prevention programs. The following are highlights from its 2007 activities:

- Beginning in 2008, MCPA will be offering corporate memberships. This is in response to an increase in the number of for-profit agencies approaching the association to become members, share resources, or create partnerships. The MCPA is putting together a package of benefits exclusively for corporate members.
- The MCPA website offers a variety of information and resources for crime prevention practitioners in the state, including monthly tips, a training and meeting calendar, downloadable PDFs and PowerPoint presentations that can be customized by the user, MCPA Board of Director meetings and minutes, employment announcements, and useful links. In 2006, the MCPA’s website received more than 585,000 hits.

- At the 10th Annual Fall Conference in October 2007, MCPA awarded the first Charles Rix Award of Excellence. This award was developed in 2006 to honor Minnesota Crime Watch Director Charles Rix for his commitment to crime prevention for the last 30 years. The award will be presented annually to an individual or group in whom or which the virtues of vision, leadership, and success converge for efforts in crime prevention.
- MCPA distributed more than 800,000 Minnesota Twins baseball trading cards with crime prevention messages on them and more than 700,000 Minnesota Wild hockey cards. The Trading Card Committee creates the safety and crime prevention messages for the cards. The committee also works closely with sponsors that provide support and donations for this very popular program.
- The state association will help launch a statewide VIPERS (Vehicle Passenger Education on Restraints and Safety) project in 2008.
- The Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) Committee hosted several discussions on topics like immigration issues, senior housing, rental housing licenses and ordinances, and graffiti. The committee updated the CFMH manual, and it is now available on a disk. The committee also prepares a quarterly newsletter that is sent to participating agencies and is a great avenue to share information on a variety of CFMH topics.
- The MCPA added another Board Member-at-Large position to bring the number of positions on the Board to 13.

*Contact*

**Nicole Nelson**

Minnetonka Police Department

952-939-8546

[www.mncpa.net](http://www.mncpa.net)

## Missouri

### Crime Prevention in Missouri: The Missouri Crime Prevention Association

Crime Prevention came to the forefront in Missouri during the late 1970s and early 1980s when federal grant monies were made available to state and local law enforcement agencies. The Missouri Crime Prevention Association was formed in August 1979 by a group of crime prevention practitioners from across the state, including members of state and local government. The association is a not-for-profit corporation whose purpose is to promote and encourage crime prevention efforts in the state of Missouri by serving as a functional and essential resource to law enforcement and community groups for program development and training in crime prevention activities and techniques. Over the years, the association has developed partnerships with the Department of Public Safety, the Missouri Regional Community Policing Institute, the Mid-America Crime Free Association, and other corporate sponsors to provide training to hundreds of crime prevention practitioners. The association holds an annual training session each spring, with smaller regional training programs offered throughout the year.

The Missouri Crime Prevention Association has continued, with moderate success, to provide annual and other periodic crime prevention training to all interested parties. Their membership includes many active and retired law enforcement officers, corporate security advisors, and civilian practitioners. During the past two years, the Missouri Crime Prevention Association has partnered with corporate sponsors in the Kansas City, MO, metropolitan area to provide Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) classes. These sponsors provided both funding and logistics to make these classes possible. We partnered with +Vilatte Institute, a not-for-profit organization for education in the St. Louis, MO, area, to develop and maintain a website ([www.mocrimeprevention.org](http://www.mocrimeprevention.org)) that helped us double the attendance at our 2007 Spring

Training Session. Finally, MCPA partnered with Associated Wholesale Grocers of Springfield, MO, to design our new informational brochure and with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals to have it printed.

*Contact*

**Rev. Robert A. Catlett, Jr.**

Missouri Crime Prevention Association, Inc.  
Glendale Police Department  
314-909-3005  
execdirector@mocrimeprevention.org

## Montana

### Preventing Crime in Montana: AARP Montana

Montana AARP recently has been involved in three specific types of outreach. First, Montana AARP partnered with the Montana state auditor and the Investor Protection Trust to provide a Campaign for Wise and Safe Investing. This campaign included a series of seven local programs in Frenchtown, Missoula, Stevensville, Seeley Lake, and Hamilton. These programs highlighted investment fraud and discussed the many ways citizens become victims of these devastating crimes and how they can protect themselves by checking out their brokers and investments in advance with the state auditor's office.

Montana AARP worked with the AARP Foundation's National Tribal Legal Training Program and Eagle Shield Senior Center on the Blackfeet Reservation and presented a two-day workshop on elder abuse and financial exploitation. This program focused on both community and law enforcement response to these issues and attracted participants from the Blood Reserve in Canada, including members of the Blood Tribal Police.

Montana AARP also set up fraud summits in Dillon, Missoula, and Helena during Crime Prevention Month. Partners for these events included the Montana Attorney General, Montana State Auditor, Montana Banking Commissioner, Montana State Lottery, Social Security Administration, senior legal outreach from the Department of Public Health and Human Services, Federal Trade Commission, Montana POST Program, and the Montana State Bar Association. Because the events' partners included all the regulators for fraud, attendees at the public forum could discuss fraud directly with those who regulate it. The second day of the summits was for attorneys and law enforcement and there were separate events for each. Attorneys received Continuing Legal Education credits and members of law enforcement received Peace Officers Standards and Training credits.

*Contact*

**Alex E. Ward**

AARP Montana  
406-457-4703  
award@aarp.org

## Nevada

### Meeting Diverse Crime Prevention Needs in Nevada: The Nevada State Crime Prevention Association

The mission of the Nevada State Crime Prevention Association is to promote crime prevention and public safety statewide through community partnerships and education. The state of Nevada faces unique challenges when addressing the very important topic of crime prevention—unique in the sense that Nevada has both

rural and urban populations. Northern Nevada, which houses the urban city of Reno, has many agricultural and mining communities, whereas southern Nevada, which houses Las Vegas, has a more metropolitan feel with sprawling cities and fast-paced living. Faced with such diversity, the state of Nevada needs a broad range of crime prevention approaches in all areas.

The Nevada State Crime Prevention Association's initial survey of Nevada showed crime prevention needs to range from farm machinery theft prevention to vehicle theft prevention, from the basics of child safety to the vast world of cyber safety for children. The association looked at a number of questions.

- How do we stay on top of tourist destination crime prevention and approaches when not all members of the association would have that particular need?
- What about disaster preparedness for cities whose residents feel they might be a logical terrorist target versus cities whose residents think that this problem will not affect them directly?
- How do we develop and manage both small and large Neighborhood Watch programs?
- How do we help communities that have very little staff and have not identified any formal crime prevention needs as well as communities that have too many crime prevention programs running to successfully manage them all?

With these questions in mind, the immediate goals of the Nevada State Crime Prevention Association are twofold. The first goal is to partner with the International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners to bring the crime prevention specialist certification to Nevada so that all interested crime prevention practitioners can participate in the training and testing. Achieving this certification will improve the quality of crime prevention programs offered, regardless of the part of Nevada that is represented. The second goal is to offer the Neighborhood Watch Toolkit training to those portions of the state that are working to create a Neighborhood Watch program for their communities where no formal program exists. In addition, funding is one of the biggest concerns regarding crime prevention in Nevada, and reaching out to community partners is critical to the success of the Nevada State Crime Prevention Association. Outreach can bring to the table many established organizations, associations, entities, and others who want safe communities in which to operate.

#### *Contact*

#### **Kathy Perkins**

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

702-828-4305

k2482p@lvmpd.com

## **New York**

### **Providing Crime Prevention Training in New York: The New York State Crime Prevention Coalition**

The New York State Crime Prevention Coalition (NYSCPC) has been serving the residents of the state of New York for 20 years. It has been the central agency for crime prevention efforts and education since the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (NYSDCJS) reduced and eliminated many of its crime prevention programs in the late 1980s. NYSCPC works closely with NYSDCJS on the development and presentation of crime prevention training, including the New York State Basic Crime Prevention Certification course, and is involved with all law enforcement agencies, businesses, and citizens-at-large throughout the state of New York in the coordination of crime prevention education, training, and programs.

NYSCPC is a not-for-profit organization with an all-volunteer executive board (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and sergeant-at-arms), along with nine volunteer regional representatives. It specializes

in providing crime prevention training programs on a number of topic areas including, but not limited to, robbery, burglary, fraud, theft, workplace violence, rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, crimes against the elderly, and crimes against the handicapped. NYSCPC also specializes in prevention training programs in personal safety, crime prevention for businesses, identity theft prevention, home security, and Neighborhood Watch.

The three basic courses that provide NYSCPC's greatest stability are state certified through NYSDCJS. These are the Basic Crime Prevention Certification course, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, and—most recently added—the College and University Crime Prevention program. The State's Division of Criminal Justice Training Bureau certification gives these courses credibility with the police departments and civilian groups that are looking to get the best, most productive training with very limited training funds. Currently, NYSCPC is in the early stages of developing an Advanced Crime Prevention Course to supplement the Basic Course.

*Contact*

**George Mendez**

New York State Crime Prevention Coalition

716-677-4700

Georgem@nyscpc.org

### Violence Prevention Training for Schools: The New York State Center for School Safety

Please Stand Up! (PSU!) is a violence prevention training program produced by The New York State Center for School Safety, a state government coordinating agency and information clearinghouse committed to promoting research-driven, data-based solutions to school violence and promoting safe and healthy learning environments where students are secure in their pursuit of educational success. PSU! is a curriculum and interactive CD-ROM for middle and high school students, educators, parents, and community members. It is designed to empower youth to take a stand against violence and to recognize and reject "bystander" behavior, while also training adults on how to respond when youth share a concern, worry, fear, or secret.

In most of our nation's tragic school shootings, there were danger signs that were not reported or were not acted upon. Students frequently experience conflicts around relationships, hate, bullying, criminal activity, depression/suicide, and fear. They see, hear, and suspect things but tend to keep things to themselves. In PSU! the bystander mentality is examined through seven potentially dangerous or self-destructive situations: conflict, bullying, hate and harassment, relationship violence, suicide, gangs, and weapons. Students are taught to recognize potential violence as well as ways to prevent it without being fearful of repercussions.

The CD-ROM addresses school violence as a systemic problem that can only be resolved through a systematic process that incorporates the efforts of the student, family, school and community. It is only when students, schools, parents, law enforcement agencies, youth agencies and groups, the faith-based community, and even private and not-for profit businesses all come together in open dialogue that solutions can be generated and violence eradicated. To date, all 715 school districts in New York state have received this curriculum, and evaluation data are showing that it is having a direct positive impact on students' input in violence prevention.

*Contact*

**Felicia Watson**

The New York State Center for School Safety

845-255-8989

Fwatson@mhric.org

## North Carolina

### Reducing Vulnerability to Crime in North Carolina: North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission

Training programs are an important way that the Crime Prevention Unit of the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission (GCC) accomplishes its mission to help North Carolinians create safer communities. Trained staff provide crime prevention strategies and best practices on a variety of topics to agencies, communities, organizations, and businesses at no cost.

Currently, the Crime Prevention Unit is conducting the following training programs:

- **Campus Security: Threat and Vulnerability Assessments**—Participants learn to conduct threat-level assessments and how to apply strategies to identify campus and building vulnerability from the inside looking out. Participants are required to perform an actual building assessment. Over 400 law enforcement and school personnel have attended this training session to date. Courses for several other counties have been scheduled and will provide training for an additional 500 attendees.
- **House of Worship/Nonprofit: Threat and Vulnerability Assessments**—Beginning January 2008, all faith-based organizations and other nonprofit organizations receiving funding from the Governor's Crime Commission will attend this training course. Participants will learn to conduct threat-level assessments and how to apply strategies to identify building vulnerability. Participants are required to perform an actual building assessment.

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*

#### **Starr Barbaro**

North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission

919-733-4564

sbarbaro@ncgccd.org

www.ncgccd.org

## Ohio

### The Ohio Terrorism Awareness and Prevention (TAP) Program

The Ohio Crime Prevention Association (OCPA), in partnership with the Ohio Department of Public Safety, developed and oversees the Terrorism Awareness and Prevention (TAP) program for Ohio. The program is designed to help all citizens prevent and prepare for emergencies and potential acts of terrorism.

TAP was initially unveiled in 2002 and included a training CD-ROM, videotape, and instructor manual. OCPA helped conduct several train-the-trainer sessions around the state. As a result, 1,500 law enforcement and other professionals and volunteers received training kits and instructions on how to utilize the materials to educate citizens in their communities. In 2007, OCPA updated the TAP materials and distributed the TAP-2 CD-ROM to all 1,500 certified TAP trainers.

The new materials in the TAP program include general information about terrorism, how terrorists operate, and types of threats. The program includes specific information about signs of terrorism, what to observe, and where/how to report suspicious activity. It also provides important information about preparation and response in the event of an actual emergency or terrorist activity.

Presentations on TAP have been given throughout Ohio to schools, church groups, public meetings, neighborhood and professional associations, business groups, fraternal organizations, and other groups of concerned citizens. The message of TAP is that citizens need to be aware and invest in the safety of their communities. Through the work of TAP trainers, the message of TAP has been shared throughout Ohio and will continue to be relayed. As a result, Ohio is now safer and more prepared to recognize and respond to threats to the homeland's security.

*Contact*

**Eric Poklar**

Ohio Crime Prevention Association

614-718-3211

[eric.poklar@ocpa-oh.org](mailto:eric.poklar@ocpa-oh.org)

## Texas

### Promoting Neighborhood Alliances in Texas: The Texas Crime Prevention Association and the Texas Police Chiefs Association

On seeing a decrease in citizen-community crime prevention involvement, representatives from the Texas Crime Prevention Association and the Texas Police Chiefs Association came together hoping to generate increased participation in neighborhood association programs and other crime prevention activities in Texas neighborhoods. Believing that law enforcement and citizens have a responsibility to work together to protect their neighborhoods, the group concluded that the best course of action was to develop ways to reinvigorate Texans' interest in holding of neighborhood block parties.

Local law enforcement agencies and their community partners nationwide have long been focused on educating residents about crime prevention, mobilizing support for and participation in crime prevention initiatives, improving police-community alliances, and demonstrating solidarity in the fight against crime. Many communities celebrate crime prevention's many successes every year, usually in the summer. However, given the potential for unpleasant weather conditions in the summer months, outdoor celebrations in warmer communities proved disagreeable. To address this regional weather challenge, law enforcement agencies across Texas joined forces in 2007 to sponsor Texans Against Crime (T.A.C.), a celebration of Crime Prevention Month, which has been held every October across the nation since 1984 and is promoted by NCPC.

The T.A.C. program promotes neighborhood alliances to strengthen communities and preserve the quality of life in Texas. Through T.A.C., citizens can strengthen their communities by helping to educate families, friends, and neighborhoods about crime prevention. T.A.C. celebrations are being held throughout Texas on the second Tuesday in October; the first T.A.C. celebrations were held on Tuesday, October 9, 2007. The T.A.C. program helps local governmental agencies inform residents that communities are safer when neighbors work together. Getting to know neighbors is an important step in guaranteeing safety in communities, so the T.A.C. program encourages neighborhoods to host "block parties" during which residents turn on their lights, gather outside with their neighbors, and enjoy events such as potluck dinners, ice cream socials, games, raffles, and neighborhood essay or poster contests. In 2008, T.A.C. will review opportunities to use resources the National Sheriffs' Association and NCPC will produce for Celebrate Safe Communities, a new joint NSA/NCPC initiative designed to help kick off Crime Prevention Month.

*Contact*

**Officer Tammy Snider**

Texas Crime Prevention Association  
Plano Police Department  
972-941-2060  
Tammys@plano.gov

## Utah

### Fighting Meth in Utah: The Utah Council for Crime Prevention

In 2007, the Utah Council for Crime Prevention (UCCP) collaborated with the Salt Lake City (UT) Police Department, the Governor's Office, and the Partnership for a Drug-Free America (PDFA) to further combat the methamphetamine problem in Utah. In the early 2000s, Utah was plagued by crystal meth manufacturing labs. Aggressive federal, state, and local law enforcement drastically reduced those numbers, but meth use remained very much an issue. Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman and the Utah Association of Counties decided that another big push was needed to combat the problem. A Governor's task force was formed and proposals were presented. UCCP forged this partnership by presenting the governor and his staff with effective PDFA anti-meth public service advertisements, advocating for the ads that best fit the Utah community, and expediting their delivery.

Since 1998, UCCP has been involved in the Salt Lake City Cops Meth Initiative (a U.S. Department of Justice program) that has received national recognition. Since its inception in 2006, the Utah Methamphetamine Joint Task Force has moved to focus local community and law enforcement resources for the benefit of many. This collaboration is proof that the best course of action can be wrought through strong governing support, quality and creative media, and experienced and passionate people who know how to bring it all together. UCCP's advocacy for the use of the PDFA ads has allowed local communities, like Vernal, UT, and Cedar City, UT, to take advantage of national creative resources. Local media support of the campaign is committed through June 2008.

*Contact*

**Tibby Milne**

Utah Council for Crime Prevention  
801-486-8691  
tibbyuccp@aol.com

## Virginia

### Virginia Crime Prevention Highlights: The Virginia Crime Prevention Association

The Virginia Crime Prevention Association (VCPA) had a very active year in 2006. The following is a summary of VCPA's recent achievements:

- The VCPA organized and conducted 34 training courses and made 11 significant presentations. The VCPA offered 71 days of training and education events, reaching 1,611 people from 200 different localities and organizations. The VCPA estimates that these services saved local and state law enforcement agencies and other organizations an estimated \$350,000 in annual training costs. The VCPA also responded to 35 requests for technical assistance.
- The VCPA received a \$99,986 grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services. Over 100 organizations and individuals donated cash and in-kind services to support crime prevention services

provided by the VCPA. Major cash donations were provided by Re-Cellular, The Allstate Foundation, and the Wireless Foundation.

- VCPA staff met with legislators to request that they introduce a crime prevention budget amendment at the 2006 General Assembly. As a result, a budget amendment to add \$250,000 to the budget of the Department of Criminal Justice Services to support crime prevention program services was introduced. A \$100,000 amendment was included in the final Senate proposal, but the amendment was not included in the House budget. The approved state budget signed by the governor included the \$100,000 for the VCPA.
- The VCPA 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's needs, interests, and concerns from Virginia's law enforcement executives. The committee will meet two times per year with the VCPA executive committee and will also be consulted to deal with emergency or time-sensitive issues.
- In Summer 2006, the VCPA was awarded a contract by the Fairfax County Police Department to conduct security assessments and make security recommendations for the police department's eight district stations. The final assessment report was presented to the Fairfax County Police Department on July 19, 2006. As a result of this security assessment project, the Fairfax County Fire Department contracted with the VCPA to conduct assessments of fire facilities in Fairfax County in early 2007.
- The VCPA planned and hosted two regional 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. Selected states were invited to send two representatives to the regional forums. The first forum was held in Bristol, VA, and the second was held in Park City, UT.

#### *Contact*

#### **Patrick D. Harris**

Virginia Crime Prevention Association

804-231-3900

vaprevent@aol.com

www.vcpa.org

## **Washington**

### **Washington State Crime Prevention Association Offers Hospital and Business Crime Prevention Classes**

The Washington State Crime Prevention Association (WSCPA) held its fifth annual Health Care and Private Industry Crime Prevention Conference in August 2007 in Seattle, WA. Classes at this conference are a very important part of the training WSCPA provides. Children's Hospital and WSCPA developed the training classes for health care workers, security professionals, business leaders, and school security professionals. The training was designed based on the problems found in hospitals and schools. The core classes focused on violence in the workplace and verbal de-escalation. The first class was held in 2003 and it became a yearly WSCPA offering. It was decided to open the class to all businesses and private security agencies.

The classes in 2007 included the following: Identity Theft and How to Prevent It, Cyber Safety and Internet Crime, The Warning Signs of Violence, Hiring the Right Person, Discriminatory Harassment in the Workplace, Suicide Prevention in Hospitals, Hospital Imposters, Hospitals and Terrorism, Hate Crimes, Developing a Bomb Threat Response Plan That Works for Your Organization, How to Prepare for a JCAHO

Visit, Verbal De-escalation, Maintaining a Safe Emergency Room, and Self Defense for Women and Children. WSCPA developed a special one-day Business Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) class for this year's conference. The class focused on basic CPTED concepts, the history of CPTED and crime prevention, and ten major CPTED mistakes found in businesses and communities. WSCPA's goal is to market more CPTED training to Washington communities. WSCPA and Children's Hospital also developed the Terrorism, Suicide Prevention, and Bomb Threat Response Plan course specifically for this conference. The self-defense class was taught by a special instructor brought in by Children's Hospital.

WSCPA plans to continue offering these classes. So far, over 300 people have attended from 40 different hospitals and 25 different law enforcement agencies. The classes have brought in 140 new members to WSCPA.

*Contact*

**Daryl Pearson**

Washington State Crime Prevention Association  
Walla Walla Police Department  
509-527-9290  
info@wscpaonline.org

## Wisconsin

### Wisconsin Crime Prevention Resource Center: The Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners' Association

The mission of the Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners' Association (WCPPA) is to provide comprehensive, up-to-date services and resources to law enforcement and public organizations as it pertains to crime prevention in Wisconsin. Now, thanks to a partnership between Fox Valley Technical College and the WCPPA and a grant from the Wisconsin Technical College System, Wisconsin has a centralized clearinghouse of information about crime prevention on both the state and national levels.

The Wisconsin Crime Prevention Resource Center (WCPRC) is both an online ([www.wcprc.org](http://www.wcprc.org)) and on-site library that provides law enforcement, security professionals, and Wisconsin communities with crime prevention resources. The online resource center provides quick and easy access to resources such as newsletters, pamphlets, useful websites links, and advice from experts. Information is available on a variety of topics, including gun violence, security, loss prevention, gangs, homeland security, and community and tribal crime prevention. Law enforcement and security professionals have secured access to additional resources, including an online question and answer forum, access to the lending library, training and technical assistance resources, conference and training calendars, on-site consultation, and online documents and sample forms.

WCPPA is working with Wisconsin legislator Donald Friske, of District 35, to pass legislation to have the National McGruff House program recognized in Wisconsin as the only Safe House Program. When this legislation is approved, the WCPRC will play an important role in putting this program in place throughout Wisconsin. WCPRC will provide the training and educational materials to assist law enforcement, school districts, and others who would like to start a McGruff Safe House program in their community.

*Contact*

**Joel Dhein**

Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners' Association  
Glendale Police Department  
414-228-1741  
j.dhein@glendale-wi.org

# Using Byrne JAG Funds for Statewide Crime Prevention Programs



Ohio Revised Code establishes the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) as the lead criminal justice planning agency for the state. OCJS serves agencies and communities committed to reducing and preventing crime across Ohio. Service is at the core of OCJS's vision, with collaboration the key that allows the agency to remain ahead of criminal justice issues. The outcome of this service and collaboration is the outstanding assistance OCJS provides in a broad range of areas such as funding, technology, research, training, and publications. OCJS customers include legislators, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, universities, victim groups, and citizens.

OCJS is led by an executive director who is appointed by the director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) with the concurrence of the governor. The office is organized into five areas: grants administration, policy and research, justice technology, the family violence prevention center, and law enforcement services.

OCJS is called on by the director of ODPS, the governor's administration, and many different constituents to address a wide range of criminal justice issues. It is the combination of seasoned criminal justice professionals and individuals just entering the workforce that provide OCJS with the balance of experience and creativity to work toward solutions.

An OCJS staff of close to 20 members effectively administers millions of justice grant dollars, researches trends, and manages some of Ohio's most progressive justice technology systems. How much does this cost Ohioans? With its administrative general revenue fund at just over \$1 million, OCJS is one of the soundest returns on investment in Ohio state government today.

## Summary of Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Programs

The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services implemented the federal fiscal year 2006 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG/Byrne) with the goal of assisting local and state government in preventing and controlling illegal drugs, reducing incidents of violent crime, and improving the overall functioning of the criminal justice system. Awarding approximately \$6.1 million for calendar year (CY) 2007 programs, OCJS program areas correspond to the respective JAG/Byrne goals.

Ohio Program Areas and JAG/Byrne Goals			
Program Area	Prevent and Control Illegal Drugs	Reduce Violent Crime	Improve Overall Operations
Law enforcement program	X	X	X
Prevention and education program	X	X	
Corrections and community corrections program	X	X	
Prosecution, court, and victim service program		X	X
Research, evaluation, and technology improvement program		X	X

### Law Enforcement Program

This program uses multi-jurisdictional collaboration to reduce the impact of drug and firearm traffickers, pharmaceutical diversion, gangs, terrorism, and other organized criminal activity on the health and safety of Ohio citizens. Enforcement activities serve to reduce and control drugs and violent crime. Multi-jurisdictional coordination also helps to improve overall justice system operations. In CY 2007, 27 multi-jurisdictional task forces were awarded approximately \$1.48 million.

JAG/Law Enforcement (JAG LE) funds projects that reduce crime, increase public safety, and support the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS). OIBRS is a crime reporting system that allows criminal justice agencies to submit data directly to state and federal government using an automated format. JAG LE provides assistance to law enforcement agencies in the following areas: hiring, training, and employing new and additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel; paying overtime to employed law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel for the purposes of increasing the number of hours worked by such personnel; and procuring equipment, computer technology, and other materials directly related to law enforcement functions. In CY 2007, 23 police agencies received approximately \$290,000.

### Prevention and Education Program

The purpose of this program is to prevent and reduce crime and the fear it brings to communities. This is accomplished through collaborative crime prevention in order to maintain order, solve problems, and improve the quality of life for Ohio citizens. Increasing juvenile crime prevention programs and projects geared toward community crime prevention and training are the major goals of this category. In CY 2007, 31 programs were awarded approximately \$950,000.

## Corrections and Community Corrections Program

This program is designed to increase community-based alternatives to incarceration and detention for non-violent offenders in Ohio, including residential and nonresidential substance abuse programs, and drug and mental health courts. By intervening in the drug-crime cycle, this program contributes to both the goals of controlling illegal drugs and reducing violent crime and provides improved assessment capabilities of offenders. In CY 2007, 20 programs were awarded approximately \$660,000.

## Prosecution, Court, and Victim Service Program

One purpose of this program is to provide crime victims with needed services so that they may overcome the trauma of victimization, participate at all critical states of the criminal justice process, and return to full, active lives. Effective victim services contribute to the long-term operations of the justice system. The other purpose is to improve security for prosecutors and courts. Greater security also contributes to the long-term operations of the justice system.

## Research, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement Program

The lack of adequate and timely criminal justice information has a profound impact on Ohio's criminal justice system's ability to respond to crime in the state. This is felt in two ways. One is the inability to receive complete and timely information regarding individuals arrested or convicted for criminal offenses. The other is insufficient knowledge on the best practices to employ in the state's response to crime. This program addresses both needs by providing research and evaluation of programs related to Ohio's criminal justice priorities and by improving information systems to assist law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and corrections. In CY 2007, seven projects were awarded approximately \$200,000.

## Additional Coordinated Grants Awarded

### Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

OCJS worked with the Ohio Family Violence Advisory Council and the OCJS Criminal Justice Advisory Policy Board to develop recommendations for the VAWA program. Consistent with those recommendations, during CY 2007, Ohio awarded funds to law enforcement, prosecutors, and direct victim service providers. Approximately \$4 million in VAWA grant money was awarded to 91 programs.

### Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT)

The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program funds projects that provide substance abuse treatment services in correctional institutions and community-based programs using the model and requirements of the federal RSAT guidelines. The RSAT goal is to increase the quality and number of projects in Ohio to better address the needs of substance-abusing inmates. In CY 2007, \$250,000 in RSAT funds were awarded to four programs.

### Family Violence Prevention and Services (FVPS)

The purpose of the FVPS program is to prevent incidents of family violence and to provide immediate shelter and related assistance for victims of family violence and their dependents. Funding for this program goes to applicants who provide or help provide temporary refuge and shelter to victims of family violence and their dependents in an effort to prevent future violence. Much like the VAWA program, some projects receive both

FVPS and JAG/Byrne funds. The two grant programs are coordinated so they most effectively meet a variety of needs within those agencies. In CY 2007, OCJS awarded approximately \$2.5 million in FVPS money received from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)

Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, NCHIP is designed to enhance the crime fighting and criminal justice capabilities of state governments by improving the accuracy, utility, and interstate accessibility of criminal history records, protection orders involving domestic violence and stalking, sex offender records, automated identification systems, and state systems supporting national records systems. NCHIP is used to further augment JAG technology improvement grants. In CY 2007, one program was awarded approximately \$271,000.

#### *Contact*

**Karhlton Moore**

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

614-466-7782

kmoore@dps.state.oh.us

## McGruff's 2007 Crime Prevention Awards of Excellence



The McGruff Crime Prevention Awards of Excellence are presented by the National Crime Prevention Council to recognize individuals and agencies doing extraordinary things to prevent crime and create safer, more caring communities. Individuals, agencies or organizations, or communities that have made extraordinary contributions to crime prevention are eligible for the award. The local law enforcement agency in the winner's home community receives a new McGruff the Crime Dog costume to use to promote ongoing crime prevention initiatives in that community. Costume donations were made possible by the generous support of ADT Security Services, Inc., a longtime corporate partner of NCPC.

The following winners received their awards at the National Crime Prevention Council's 8th National Conference on Preventing Crime in Atlanta, GA, in October 2007:

### Virginia Crime Prevention Association, State Crime Prevention Association or Coalition of the Year

Virginia law enforcement and other organizations know the value of working with the Virginia Crime Prevention Association (VCPA). VCPA has saved them more than \$700,000 in annual training costs and conducted over 110 training courses and presentations that reached nearly 3,700 individuals in more than 200 locations. Using a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, the Virginia Crime Prevention Association hosted two forums for state crime prevention program leaders to discuss

opportunities to enhance crime prevention services to areas in Virginia. For more information on VCPA, see pages 37–38.

### Officer Daryl Pearson, Crime Prevention Officer of the Year

Officer Daryl Pearson is the current executive director of the Washington State Crime Prevention Association (WSCPAs). He has served as a commissioned police officer for the Walla Walla, WA, police department since 1983. Much of his career has been spent advancing crime prevention initiatives in Washington state. Officer Pearson has instituted 21 different crime prevention programs, taught 15 citizen police academies, and worked to get the state legislature to pass crime prevention resolutions since 1986.

Officer Pearson is a graduate of the 120-Hour Crime Prevention Course from NCPI, Louisville, KY, and the 40-Hour Basic and Advanced Crime Prevention Courses from Washington Crime Watch. Daryl has an AAS degree from Walla Walla Community College. He has served two terms as WSCPAs president. Daryl has served as WSCPAs secretary since 1996 and was asked to be the WSCPAs executive director in 2000.

*For more information on the WSCPAs, see pages 38–39.*

### Nick Arlt, Crime Prevention Citizen/Volunteer of the Year

Nick Arlt has spent five years making a difference in the lives of community members in De Pere, WI. Included among Mr. Arlt's accomplishments are graduating from the De Pere Citizens Academy and being a board member of its alumni association. As a committee member of the POOCH project, he helped to raise \$50,000 to purchase a K-9 dog for the De Pere Police Department. Mr. Arlt also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Brown County Crime Prevention Foundation, the first of its kind in the nation. He was one of the founders of McGruff Fest, a new hands-on crime prevention expo for all ages, and held a community event on October 13, 2007, sponsored by ShopKo. Festival Foods, his employer, has sponsored National Night Out activities by the De Pere police department, raised over \$10,000 in support of the Brown County Crime Prevention Foundation, and is a sponsor of McGruff Fest.

*Contact*

**Nick Arlt**

920-309-2151

narlt@skogensfest.com.

### Youth Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County, Crime Prevention Program of the Year (Local or City of Over 250,000 Population)

The nonprofit Youth Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County is a catalyst for community crime prevention activities in Miami, FL. The organization has conducted more than 451 crime prevention presentations and assemblies serving over 33,000 students in the past year, has created an innovative prevention curriculum to address a wide range of prevention topics, and has helped McGruff the Crime Dog make more than 900 appearances in Miami-Dade schools and the surrounding area. Youth Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County ensures that cultural and ethnic diversity are an integral part of its proactive school and community outreach.

*For more on the Youth Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County, see pages 24–25.*

## Ewa Weed and Seed, Crime Prevention Program of the Year (Local or City of Under 250,000 Population)

The Ewa Weed and Seed organization in Ewa Beach, HI, is an outstanding example of successful crime prevention activities that unite residents, law enforcement, businesses, social services, and others to prevent crime and restore community cohesion. The Ewa Beach community has completed its fifth year as part of the Weed and Seed initiative and was recently awarded designation as a graduated site; the YMCA–Honolulu remains the fiscal agent for Weed and Seed–Hawaii. As part of the “seeding” portion of this community initiative, Ewa Beach Weed and Seed site coordinator Gale Bracerros provides support to the Weed and Seed steering committee by establishing partnerships and facilitating community events. The Honolulu police department (HPD) leads the “weeding” portion through its specially assigned Weed and Seed Detail, a team of officers that supports the community through surveillance and joint facilitation of proactive activities that address crime, drugs, and violence. This collaborative partnership participates in a community coalition called EWAlution that consists of 54 members from various community factions, including service providers, schools, residents, business representatives, and government agencies.

Weed and Seed events are totally supported by the continuous sponsorships and generosity of businesses and volunteers and are open to all, free of charge. These events include the Culinary Arts Summer Program, through which interested teens are taught basic skills in the preparation and presentation of economic and healthy meals; an ocean sports program in which the HPD Detail officers and the Boys & Girls Club staff teach participating youths water safety through water sports to encourage healthy recreational choices; Movie on the Wall, a quarterly event that provides families with a fun night of resource booths, games and activities, crime prevention education presentations, food and refreshments, and a featured movie; and Citizen Patrol and/or Neighborhood Security Watch, with training conducted by the Honolulu Police Department Community Resource Officer and Weed and Seed Officers. Youth members of Hale Pono Boys & Girls Club initiated its first youth Citizen Patrol team and soon will have their second team ready to patrol nearby school campuses. The youth patrol also participates in a variety of seeding events that encourage youths to make positive choices and take responsible ownership of the community.

### Contact

**Gale Bracerros**

808-689-4182

weedseedewa@yahoo.com.

## Darkness to Light, Crime Prevention Program of the Year (State or National)

Darkness to Light, founded only seven years ago, has made a tremendous impact on preventing child sexual abuse. This national organization is dedicated to teaching adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Until recently, most prevention programs have been child-focused. Darkness to Light works to shift the responsibility for preventing child sexual abuse from children to adults. Darkness to Light developed and distributes *Stewards of Children*, a two and one-half hour evidence-based prevention program that is valuable for any adult or professional but is geared for the staff and volunteers of youth-serving organizations (e.g., youth sports leagues, children’s clubs, church groups, and schools). The training is available in both an instructor-led format and online. Darkness to Light also offers intensive training to certify participants as approved facilitators of the instructor-led version of the *Stewards of Children* program. More than 700 individuals in 43 states and five countries have been certified to facilitate the training. These facilitators have trained 92,000 adults as *Stewards of Children*. The quality that sets *Stewards of Children* training apart from other programs is its ability to motivate. The program goes beyond facts and techniques for protecting children; it explores the hard choices that adults must sometimes make to ensure a child’s safety.

Ultimately, *Stewards of Children* empowers participants, one by one, to protect the children in their lives, and this is the first step in eradicating child sexual abuse.

*Contact*

**Catherine Townsend**

843-965-5444

ctownsend@D2L.org, or visit [www.darknesstolight.org](http://www.darknesstolight.org).



2345 Crystal Drive  
Suite 500  
Arlington, VA 22202

202-466-6272  
Fax 202-296-1356  
[www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)



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