

CRIME STOPPERS NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 Issue 4

Affiliated with the USA Crime Stoppers

Fall 2009

Non-profit Organization

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our 4th Atlantic County Crime Stoppers Foundation, Inc. Newsletter

MISSION STATEMENT

Crime Stoppers is to use a combination of anonymity and monetary rewards to encourage individuals to come forward with information about crimes. No member shall receive any monetary compensation for serving on the Board.

WHO WE ARE

Crime Stoppers is a partnership of the Community, the Media and Law Enforcement designed to combat crime and keep our streets safe.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Roy Soloff, Founder of the Atlantic County Crime Stoppers, began the organization in 1978. We are a member of USA Crime Stoppers, also a non-profit organization. Crime Stoppers is made up of a civilian board and one non-voting law officer.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT NEEDED

- Crime Stoppers is a privately funded, non-profit organization with a volunteer Board of Trustees. Although it enjoys the support of the Sheriff, Prosecutor's office and other law enforcement officers, it receives no state, city or local funding. To remain a viable tool, Crime Stoppers must maintain a partnership with the local business community in addition to law enforcement.
- Crime Stoppers relies on donations from local businesses and individuals. All donations are tax deductible. To ensure we can continue to be a public service, financial assistance from the community is needed and appreciated.
- To contribute, simply send your donation along with the form at the end of this Newsletter. All donations are tax deductible.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank the Jewish Times of South Jersey for including information about Crime Stoppers in their newspaper. They include helpful information for citizens and businesses and aid in the cause for community service.

"HORIZON" CALL A SCAM

A woman called a local police department to report suspicious calls from someone claiming to work for Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield asking to set up an appointment to view her home. Horizon was contacted and indicated that this type of call is a scam. Contact your local police department if you receive such a call.

BUSINESSES BEWARE

- *Theft of Personal Property* - All merchants are again reminded of the importance of securing their personal belongings in a locked room, closet, file cabinet or desk. Store owners and sales associates who work alone are most vulnerable to this type of distraction theft. If you become suspicious of anyone in your store, call police immediately.
- *Retail Theft by Distraction* - This type of distraction is often a crime of opportunity. All merchants and sales assistants are reminded to be alert and aware of everyone in your store at all times. If the behavior or demeanor of someone in your store makes you feel uncomfortable, trust your instincts and call police immediately for assistance.

HOLIDAY SAFETY

1. *When shopping:*
 - make sure packages are locked in your trunk
 - secure your pocketbook and wallet
 - keep sight of your children
 - carry a whistle or alert devise
 - do not park next to a van
 - know where security personnel are located

2. *At home:*
 - unplug lights and decorations when leaving your house
 - discreetly place presents or valuables out of view of possible thieves
 - blow out candles before leaving or going to bed

SCHOLASTIC CRIME STOPPERS

Does your child have a program in their school ??? Galloway Township Middle School has a very successful program which promotes school spirit, pride, civic responsibility and allows students to take action against victimization and crime in their school and community.

Students benefit in the following ways:

- Help to promote changing student attitudes about crime and community involvement.
- Provides a safe environment in which to learn and live.
- Students report crime without fear of reprisal.
- Leadership
- Builds confidence in public speaking, in meetings or before the entire student body.
- Students work on writing skills by drafting scripts, bulletins, announcements and minutes of meetings.
- Builds a sense of pride in what they are doing.

Check our website www.crimestoppersatlantic.com to view a program that the Galloway Township Middle School has in place for students, parents and community members to report a number of items relating to education and awareness.

The following letter was sent to all public and private schools in Atlantic County. One teacher responded and requested to have a Crime Stopper board member speak to her high school Civics class. We welcome your school to do the same.

Tear Here

Tear Here



Send Your Donations to:
Atlantic County Crime Stoppers Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 262 Northfield, NJ 08225

Name _____ Address _____

\$10
 \$20
 \$50
 \$100
 Other _____

August 7, 2009

Mr. Thomas J. Dowd, County Superintendant of Schools

Dear Mr. Dowd,

With the generous support of the Atlantic County Executive's Office, Atlantic County Crime Stoppers has developed a new web site. On this site, community members can view our seasonal Newsletter, learn about our history, find out how to submit tips, have access to the Sheriff and Prosecutor's Office and see an explanation of how Scholastic Crime Stoppers works in the schools (www.crimestoppersatlantic.com).

Galloway Township Middle School has a very successful Scholastic Crime Stoppers program which has been in effect since 1997. It is a student operated organization which has monthly meetings, reviews anonymous tips reported by the students and raises money to award cash tips. The administration, advisors and resource officer review all tips in order to verify information given and research their validity. (students use their ID # to report tips which is not available to the student board)

Over the years, the program has helped provide a safe environment for students to report tips about bullying, drugs, gangs, vandalism, etc. The students even show a sense of pride in "doing the right thing" to help their school be safe.

Galloway Township Middle School has also developed a "Crime Watch" e-board which is available to all students, staff, parents and community members. Dr. Gross, Principal, has invited other schools to view the program which may be duplicated to fit your school's needs. This is also available for you to see on our web site.

Please take a moment to view the Crime Stopper website and contact us if you are interested in discussing its use in your school.

Thank you for your kind attention and interest.

Gayle Ackerman – Vice Chairman Atlantic County Crime Stoppers

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Attachment

Below please find a statement provided by Officer Larry Gibson of the Boulder, Colorado Crime Stopper organization:

"Scholastic Crime Stoppers – last updated Tuesday, 26 August 2008

This internationally recognized program allows students to provide anonymous tips to school administration about crimes in the school.

Scholastic Crime Stoppers was started in 1983. The program first proved its success at Fairview High School.

Students provide anonymous tips to school administration about crimes in the school. The students receive a monetary reward from \$5 to \$100 if the tip proves instrumental in solving the crime. Statistics reveal that the motivating factor to report for students is rarely money. The Scholastic Crime Stoppers program promotes school spirit, pride and responsibility and allows students to take action against victimization and crime.

The program is student-operated. A board of directors comprised of students is appointed to market and advertise the program, raise funds, review information about crimes and determine reward amounts. The members of the board never know who the victims, witnesses and suspects are. These identities are protected by an administrative liaison who is affiliated with the program.

Each school is encouraged to tailor the program to its specific needs. Logos, mottos, flyers, by-laws and other aspects of the program may be structured to fit each school.

The students are challenged to be creative in developing the program. Some schools have implemented Crime Stoppers hot lines, billboards, contests, video reenactments, designated Crime Stopper days and parades to disseminate their message that crime will no longer be tolerated in their schools."