



fall 2007 | edition 4

# CRIMESTOPPERS

## *1st year proves a success*

### Trust Pays leads to discovery of 26 handguns in schools

In its first year on high school campuses in Memphis and Shelby County, the statistics provide a clear picture of the impact the CrimeStoppers program Trust Pays has had.

The program removed 54 weapons from the two public school districts this past school year, including 26 handguns. In addition, school and law enforcement authorities confiscated a variety of illegal drugs ranging from marijuana to crack cocaine.

"Trust Pays has been successful even beyond our expectations," said E. Winslow (Buddy) Chapman, executive director of CrimeStoppers of Memphis and Shelby County. "There is no telling what kind of mischief or potential bodily harm the program prevented by giving students a way to confidentially inform trusted adults of illegal activities they had witnessed or knew about."

He said the program's initial success was due to careful planning, community support, and the close cooperation of school administrators. Trust Pays was fully implemented in about two dozen schools last year, and expands in the coming school year.

The program was created to make it possible for the proven CrimeStoppers formula to work in schools, where a student often doesn't have access to a phone and may be fearful of being labeled a snitch. Chapman persuaded school officials to work with CrimeStoppers to put the program in high schools and later middle schools.

Chapman then enlisted the monetary support of the Plough Foundation, which understood the practical applications of the program toward providing a more secure educational atmosphere for students.

### Donations help keep schools safe

Contributions are sought to keep the Trust Pays program alive and growing in the public schools.

CrimeStoppers is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that does not receive direct funding from government. This means that CrimeStoppers must rely on the donations of individuals and corporations to do its work to make the community safer and help bring justice to those who commit crimes.

We have been responsible for solving on average two crimes a day for 25 years. But we are only as strong as our donors make us.

[We have included a donation card on the back of this newsletter.](#)  
Please fill it out and mail it with a check today.

E. Winslow (Buddy) Chapman  
Executive Director

### Trademark filed, pending at U.S. Patent Office

CrimeStoppers' Trust Pays program has received attention even outside of Memphis.

Because of the potential use of the program in other communities in the future, the board of directors approved taking action to file for a legal service mark for the project. The trademark is pending and should be approved later this year, according to Grady Garrison of the law firm of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC.

Trust Pays has its own logo, and a prominent position in our redesigned CrimeStoppers website.



Visit our new  
website —  
[crimestopmem.org](http://crimestopmem.org)

# It all started with a holdup

The birth of CrimeStoppers of Memphis and Shelby County, Inc. can be traced back to a gas station armed robbery late one night in 1976 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

That night two thugs held up University of New Mexico student Michael Carmen and for no apparent reason fired a shotgun blast from ten feet away. Four hours later Carmen, who was only two weeks away from marrying his high school sweetheart, died without being able to describe his assailants to police.

Weeks later, with the investigation going stale, Albuquerque police detective Greg MacAleese came up with a unique idea. He asked a local TV station to re-enact the crime and ask for citizen tips. It worked. Not only did a witness come forward in the murder, but other tips were called in on other crimes. Soon the Albuquerque Metro Crime Stoppers organization was born.

Now go forward to 1981. Memphis City Council member Bob James has been hearing about the remarkable crime fighting successes the city of Albuquerque has been having. More arrests. More cases solved. More felons ending up behind bars. He decides to investigate, and learns that the New Mexico program has evolved into a 24-hour anonymous tip hotline providing cash rewards to citizens providing information leading to arrests.

James returns to Memphis and shares what he has discovered with area mayors, with the police director Buddy Chapman, the sheriff and also leading businessmen such as P.K. Seidman. Quickly a team is formed to launch a CrimeStoppers program in our community.

Now, 25 years later, CrimeStoppers of Memphis and Shelby County is widely viewed as one of the three most successful citizen tips crime fighting programs in the U.S., and indeed, in the world. Since its inception, the program has won numerous awards and public accolades,

such as First Place in Most Cases Cleared at the CrimeStoppers International conference in Victoria, British Columbia, a couple of years ago.

Why is CrimeStoppers so successful here? The answer, in a word, is community teamwork at its best.

Law enforcement agencies, city and county officials, the news media, the business community, and plain citizens who want to keep their neighborhoods and communities safe — all have worked together to keep the program strong and put the criminals behind bars.

Today CrimeStoppers is led by Buddy Chapman. Buddy was the Memphis police director back in 1981 when Bob James called that first meeting.

“I believed wholeheartedly in the CrimeStoppers idea then and I firmly believe in it today,” Chapman says. “I know of no program more effective in helping law enforcement fight crime.”

Chapman was the force behind Trust Pays, the project that took CrimeStoppers’ proven formula into the schools and has had a major impact after less than a year.

And all of this came as the result of one holdup.



## How can CrimeStoppers help you?

- ☐ I would like to receive the free e-newsletter. My email is \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I would like to make a donation in honor of someone.  
[List the name and address and CrimeStoppers will notify your honoree(s).]  
Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I would like to sign up to have a specific amount drafted from a credit card or bank account each month. Please call me to set this up. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out this form and mail with your donation today in envelope provided.