

Trust Pays making schools safer every day

Removing weapons & drugs



CrimeStoppers' successful Trust Pays program continued making children safer as they learned in city and county public schools this year.

So far in the current school year (from September, 2008 to February 2009), a total of 86 tips reached CrimeStoppers and police authorities because

students chose to tell an adult they trusted about something illegal happening in their schools. Of that total, 66 tips came in from Memphis City Schools students, and 20 came from students in Shelby County Schools.

"Truly these numbers show that Trust Pays continues to play a vital role in improving safety for children in school," said E. Winslow (Buddy) Chapman, executive director of CrimeStoppers of Memphis and Shelby county.

He said that while the program is doing what it's meant to do, it's also rewarding to see that overall the numbers are down from the previous year, showing that "the word has gotten out that criminal activities aren't acceptable on school grounds."

Now in its third year, Trust Pays has been one of the most successful programs ever launched by CrimeStoppers. Totals through two and a half years include 146 weapons confiscated and more than 200 drugs impounded. Of the weapons found, five were uncovered in elementary schools — and they were found even though the Trust Pays program had not yet been introduced in the elementary grades.



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crimestopmem.org

New video puts program in early grades

CrimeStoppers has produced a new video that introduces the Trust Pays program to kids in elementary grades.

The two-minute video features Sara Lewis, former Memphis City Schools board member and a former teacher. In language aimed at young children, she explains the program by emphasizing the importance of doing the right thing, and telling adults about anything wrong or illegal or illegal or harmful in school.

The video is the fourth one produced about Trust Pays. Earlier videos targeted faculty members, older students and parent and civic organizations.

"Teachers and principals of some of the grade schools approached me and asked that we consider taking the program into the elementary school level," Buddy Chapman said.

"Not only will that help make grade schools safer, but it also is a good way to get students prepared for the time

when they will enter the middle schools and face new challenges," he added.

Ms. Lewis, who today is a special assistant to the mayor of Memphis in Youth Services and Community Affairs, said she was happy to volunteer her talents to the video.

"I know that the great majority of students just want to learn and they want to keep their schools safe and healthy," she said. "I hope this video will underscore that."

'Crime of the Week' helps detectives

One crime-fighting practice CrimeStoppers and local law enforcement agencies have shared for years is the Crime of the Week. Each one needs anonymous calls to the tips line.

Carried as a public service announcement on local radio, and updated weekly on the CrimeStoppers website, the feature puts the spotlight on a felony case that remains unsolved and needs citizen help.

The cases stem from bank robberies to assaults, murders and even the most stubborn missing person cases.

Often the special Crime of the Week focus brings in new tips to the CrimeStoppers hot line — 528-CASH.

Some CrimeStoppers supporters make the Crime of the Week page on the CrimeStoppers website a favorite page to browse each day. The site also carries audio versions of the feature.



"It is important to keep cases in front of the public to make certain they don't turn into 'cold cases,'" Buddy Chapman said. "Often, when a crime is committed, someone in the community knows something that will help solve the case. It's when a tip comes in from a citizen that a case that seems to be going nowhere can suddenly provide new leads."

Keep CrimeStoppers strong in the metro area

Donations are needed now more than ever to support all CrimeStoppers activities, including Trust Pays.

A financial gift can be made by using the donation card on the reverse side of this newsletter. Just cut it out, fill in the information requested and mail it and a check today.

Or, contributions can be made online: www.crimestopmem.org.

Private gifts are a major part of the CrimeStoppers budget each year.

And don't forget: we solve on average two crimes every day in Memphis and Shelby County.

CrimeStoppers is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization. We do not receive direct funding from government.

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 _____