WATCH OUT

SPEAK OUT, STAND OUT...

YOU CAN HELP STOP CRIME AND VIOLENCE
Wouldn’t it be great if there was no crime? No fear of bullies or pressure at school. No violence, drugs or guns?

Kids just like you are getting together and speaking out. Their hopes are to end youth crime in their schools and neighborhoods. With the help of the police and other caring adults, they are taking charge and making a difference!
STAND OUT

Kids have the right to learn, succeed, and prepare for their future in a safe environment. They also want to be well-liked and to have fun. Bullies, gangs, drugs, and crime put kids and their families in danger. No one wants to be the victim of theft or to be threatened at school, on the playground, or in their neighborhood. Everyone would like to stop the crime and violence around them.

On the following pages, you'll read about four different Boys & Girls Clubs’ programs that all take an active role in reducing crime in their schools and neighborhoods. The kids manage and produce the programs with support from adults.

SAVE HAVEN - EAST SOMERVILLE, MA
YOUTH CRIME WATCH - SALT LAKE CITY, UT
OPERATION SAFE STREETS - PHILADELPHIA, PA
VENT - FOUNTAIN HILLS, AZ
What: An exciting youth group for 12- to 18-year-olds in a highly populated Boston neighborhood. Want to shoot hoops, try out a new computer program, or learn to project your voice like a DJ? At Safe Haven, you can get on track, have fun, and reach for your dreams. In the process you will find that being responsible for your actions can lead to real success.

Where: East Somerville, Massachusetts

When: Activities take place from 6:30 to 9pm during the week at the local school gym.

Who: More than 50 kids from families from around the world: Asians, Africans, Americans, Hispanics, and more. Adults from the Parks and Recreation Department and the Club are often found playing basketball with the kids.

How: Through collaboration with local police liaison officers as well as neighborhood community groups, kids learn to feel accepted, connected, and to know that their lives count. Choices made today can change the future, and members of Safe Haven learn that they decide on their own goals for their future. To learn more contact Boys & Girls Clubs of Middlesex County, Inc. by email at info@kidsclubs.org.

“Before I came to this program, there wasn’t anything to do in the evenings…except get into trouble!” — 15-year-old boy explaining why he likes Safe Haven.
Salt Lake City’s YCW group has counted on Neighborhood Watch resources to help start up and revitalize neighborhood involvement in its activities.

What: Youth Crime Watch (YCW) teens get involved in activities that follow the “Watch Out, Help Out” philosophy. The YCW has worked to identify concerns and issues of club members. Once issues are identified, club teens work towards a solution. They have adopted street corners of concern around the club, installed reflective flags, and helped to mentor. The activities of the YCW show how teens care about their community.

Where: In and around Salt Lake City, Utah.

When: Club members active in the YCW meet once or twice a week during club hours.

Who: Club members in junior high and high school along with a club adult to help facilitate. At five different sites throughout the area club members have worked to build YCW.

How: Through working with YCW guidelines, kids learn to work together in a formal structure and develop skills for resolving conflicts – peacefully! Through mentoring and peer programs, kids get involved in networks that create positive change in schools and communities. To learn more about what the Greater Salt Lake Boys & Girls Clubs are doing call 801-322-4411.
PHILADELPHIA, PA

OPERATION SAFE STREETS

What: Operation Safe Streets is a citywide project inspired by Philadelphia’s mayor involving law enforcement, schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, and neighborhood and community groups. The goal is to help make all neighborhoods safe enough for children to play outdoors without any drug crime. This great big east coast city is reclaiming safer streets and stronger neighborhoods which in turn, is helping youth grow up to be healthy and active community leaders.

Where: Philly, PA Boys & Girls Clubs - a big city with 264 schools in the public education system, all of which were included in the second phase of Operation Safe Streets.

When: Throughout the school year.

Who: The whole community! Students in every elementary school, junior high, and high school all around the city were encouraged to get involved. Special assemblies and exchanges took place at all city schools with law enforcement officials, ex-offenders, community and social workers, and more.

How: Through helping all young people know that they can contribute to bettering their community, Operation Safe Streets aims to help youth grow up to become active stakeholders in their community. The mission for this program is, “The mission is never ending, nor is Operation Safe Streets.” To learn more contact John Gonzales, Unit Director by email 1958johng@verizon.net.

Besides reaching out to youth through the schools, Operation Safe Streets includes a couple of components to make the streets immediately safer: “smart policing” the more dangerous corners of the city, and, get the guns gone!
What: VENT is an exciting program that is “thinking outside the box!” It stands for Vandalism Elimination Now & Tomorrow. VENT helps young people learn to make positive lifestyle choices and nurture well-being and success – not just for some but for everyone!

Where: Fountain Hills is located near Scottsdale, AZ.

When: VENT activities happen 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Activities include an internet safety program, healthy living program, a drug prevention program, and more. Ever since the program began in 2005, it keeps growing stronger. The mayor and Town Council of Fountain Hills participate, as well as the school district and Chamber of Commerce. Just about everyone in Fountain Hills is part of the VENT program, and the number of teenagers participating is growing by leaps and bounds.

Who: Teens and Preteens (7th to 12th graders). Sometimes more than 250 attend Midnight Madness and Friday Night Live.

How: Through the Boys & Girls Clubs and in conjunction with other diversion programs, teens thrive in a positive place to go! Law enforcement officials engage in the recreation programs with teens. Neighborhood spirit gets stronger, and so do police-community partnerships. For more information about what this club is doing contact Richard Schultz at rschultz@bgcs.org.

At Midnight Madness & Friday Night Live (two of VENT’s monthly events), you can:
- Rockclimb Walls!
- Mondo Box!
- Be a DJ and Spin Some Tunes!
- Make some new friends in a happening place!
Boys & Girls Clubs and Neighborhood Watch programs focus on building communities, neighborhoods, and relationships. Each program works hard to create a safe place for all to be themselves without crime.

Building neighborhood partnerships where the clubs are located only builds the strength of the neighborhood to reduce crime. In Philadelphia, the unit director for a club has been working with the local community to build and enhance resources for the community using the club as a central point. In Salt Lake, there had been multiple drive-by shootings on the same corner where they built a Boys & Girls Club. To date, since the club has been on that corner, there have been no shootings. In Fountain Hills, the club director, school officials, and local law enforcement try to meet monthly to discuss the youth at risk. Improving the communication between the club, school officials, and law enforcement has erected stronger partnerships.

Those same partnerships are key to an effective Neighborhood Watch program.

Neighborhood Watch is a great program that can add to the resources of any Boys & Girls Club. The program teaches kids to be good citizens and encourages personal responsibility which includes watching out for family, friends, schools and community.

Many youth have started neighborhood watch programs as a senior project or as a way to better their neighborhood and school. Here are a few tips and ideas for using the neighborhood watch concepts in your club.

Basic Components

- Encourage club members to start a group to talk about issues in the school/club/community
- Brainstorm ways you might help to solve the issue and who might help
- Choose one topic at a time
- Hold meetings to develop projects to better the school, club, and neighborhood community

Meetings should occur once a week to keep everyone informed
Create an anonymous tip box for the club

What you can do?

- No matter what age or community you are in it is important to report any crime or threat that could hurt.
- Encourage others to report acts.
- Help others settle disputes peacefully

Questions you might want to talk about in your group

1. Where do you feel least safe at school or in the club?
   - cafeteria
   - bathroom
   - halls
   - classroom
   - playground
   - computer room

2. In your opinion, which of the following is the biggest problem in your community?
   - fights
   - bullying
   - vandalism
   - drugs/alcohol
   - bad manners
   - stealing
   - ______

3. From the above list rank them from 1 to 6 with 1 being the biggest problem.

4. Would you report a crime if you saw one? If not, why?
### Find

Each of the following words:

- **FUTURE**
- **HAPPINESS**
- **LEARNING**
- **TEACHERS**
- **HELPFUL**
- **SCHOOL**
- **LAUGHTER**
- **SPORTS**
- **COMMUNITY**
- **FUN**
- **GAMES**
- **SUCCESS**
- **PRODUCTIVE**
- **FRIENDSHIP**
- **CARING**
- **POLICE**

### Fill

**Word list**

- school
- help
- drugs
- prevent
- proud
- trash
- trouble
- bullies
- fun
- speak
- care
- friendly
- mentor
- tie
- trees

**Fill in the blanks**

Plant _____

Pick up _____

Stay out of _____

Stay in _____

Don’t _____

_____ someone

Be a _____

Don’t do _____

Be _____

Have _____

Stand up to _____

_____ out

Be _____

Show you _____

_____ crime
Across
5 If all the different races could get along, there would be no more of this
7 Guns, knives, and other weapons in the wrong hands can be very______
8 ______crime!
9 Stay in ______
12 Eat well, get plenty of rest and _________ to succeed!
13 Everyone can use a little______ sometimes
15 Serious violation of the law, something that everyone wants to stop
16 Groups of kids prowling the streets and causing trouble
18 A wise and trusted counselor or teacher
20 Hatred, violence, crime—all these things cause people to be ______
21 Say no to ______
22 Do well in school, stay out of trouble, and your ______ will be bright

Down
1 A place where criminals are sent when convicted of a crime
2 Report crimes and trouble to these people
3 Finishing school and getting your diploma
4 Troublemakers who tease and intimidate smaller or weaker people
6 Basketball, softball, soccer, football...
9 How you feel when there’s no danger or crime
10 The opposite of love
11 The place where you live, go to school, and want to feel safe
14 A person close to you that you like and trust
16 Weapons that can get in the wrong hands and hurt or kill people
17 Markings or drawings on walls and other places that make the neighborhood look trashy
19 What you have when you play sports and games with friends

Word list
future
graduate
sports
neighborhood
fun
report
gangs
prison
hate
guns
police
help
exercise
dangerous
crime
afraid
bullies
friend
graffiti
safe
drugs
mentor
school
mentor
racism
USAonWatch (UOW)-Neighborhood Watch works to enhance, expand, and revitalize watch programs throughout the country. UOW provides information, training, technical support and resources to local law enforcement agencies and citizens.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2004-LD-BX-1406 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute for Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office of Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.

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Pages 10 & 11 photos courtesy of Boys & Girls Clubs of Philadelphia, PA
Pages 12 & 13 photos courtesy of Boys & Girls Clubs of Fountain Hills, AZ
Page 17 photos courtesy of Boys & Girls Clubs of Maine
Page 19 photos courtesy of Boys & Girls Clubs of Mason Valley

PUZZLE ANSWERS

FILL IN THE BLANKS

plant trees
pick up litter
stay out of trouble
stay in school
don’t lie
help someone
be a mentor
don’t do drugs
be friendly
have fun
stand up to bullies
speak out
be proud
show you care
prevent crime

Answer Key: Key # 272895

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