

## SAFETY

# Communities Act Against Crime

NewsUSA

(NU) - Throughout America, individuals work to make their communities safer. Green Bay, Wisc., holds its McGruff Fest, an event centered around crime prevention. In Louisville, Ky., citizens started the Willow Creek Watch Project, a Neighborhood Watch. Many projects like these receive help from the National Crime Prevention Council's (NCPC) Celebrate Safe Communities initiative in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Sheriffs' Association.

NCPC, America's premiere crime prevention agency, was formed in 1982. Originally, the organization helped citizens work with the police in creating safe neighborhoods. It used its beloved icon, McGruff the Crime Dog, to discuss personal and home safety issues, and now it is looking for the public's success stories.

While working with police remains important, the organization has broadened its scope over the last 30 years. Today, McGruff educates communities about everything from school safety to cyberbullying to identity theft. They reach out to parents, children, teens, law enforcement agencies and seniors, asking each citizen to act.

Communities have responded. In 2006, more than 1,400 police officers and community members were trained in bullying, identity theft, Internet safety and teen violence prevention. Among youth outreach organizations, law enforcement partnerships and community watch pro-



**To prevent crime, communities need to work with local law enforcement.**

grams, the organization has given citizens the education and tools needed to "take a bite out of crime."

"NCPC has a vast array of resources that support the reduction of crime," says Ken Hughes, a police officer from Forest Park, Ohio. "These resources have been instrumental in developing our neighborhood Block Watch, identity theft prevention program and the reduction in burglaries and other categories of crime."

NCPC helps communities protect themselves. In Miami, Fla., an organization called Citizens' Crime Watch used the council's materials to reach 30,000 residents. In Madras, Ore., NCPC helped the local high school's Youth Outreach for Victim Assistance program craft its announcements and publications.

NCPC wants to know how its materials or programs have helped communities prevent crime. To share a crime prevention story, e-mail [media@ncpc.org](mailto:media@ncpc.org).