

THE POWER OF POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

When law enforcement agencies actively work together with the members of their communities it is exponentially more effective in reducing crime than law enforcement working alone. 4 out of 5 law enforcement agencies across our nation recognize this fact and practice community policing within their cities. Two common goals of community policing are:

Bringing law enforcement and residents together to prevent crime and solve neighborhood problems.

Helping residents develop greater trust in law enforcement.

Open Lines of Communication

Planning time for relaxed interaction gives officers the opportunity to reach out to residents in the community in a non-threatening way. Residents will more readily provide valuable information about crime in their neighborhoods when relationships have previously been established. In response, these same residents will appreciate being heard and will want to work with officers to devise solutions that create a safer place to live, work, and play. Community policing, or non-enforcement engagement, helps residents AND officers overcome personal biases and negative stereotypes as they get to know one another.

LAW Publications Helps Law Enforcement Build Relationships through Education

An easy way for officers to engage the community is by educating residents on issues that are affecting their families and neighborhoods.

LAW Publications can partner with your agency to help make these nocost and easily planned activities a way to connect with residents in a positive way while providing critical information at the same time.

- a team at food banks and other organizations that distribute meals and food throughout the community. Volunteering to serve the needs of others in the community and handing out items such as LAW stickers, coloring books, domestic violence and safety information, allows others to see your agency as genuinely caring about the community they serve.
- Breakfast with a Kid Have officers go to a different school each month and have breakfast with the kids. They can hand out stickers, Let's Play It Safe, Officer Stevens, Stranger Danger, Wheel Sports, Bradford Beaver, Choices and Consequence, Connecting the Pieces, Let's All Work to Fight Drug Abuse. Children are delighted to have an officer come have breakfast with them at their elementary school. It will help to emphasize that an officer can be a friend instead of someone scary.

- Reading with an Officer Research shows that there is strong correlation between illiteracy and crime. An officerled weekly story time at a library branch or school in your community may seem simple, but experts agree that reading aloud to children is the most important step toward building early literacy skills. Effective read-along books are Olly Gator Makes Good Choices and Bradford Beaver. Children can color and read along with the officer while learning how to make good choices.
- **Domestic Violence and Child** Abuse Calls — Domestic violence is the single largest type of calls handled by law enforcement. When officers respond, they know the situation may be volatile for them, the abuser's victim and also the abuser. A simple gesture such as handing a child a sticker or coloring book can make all the difference at this traumatic time. Leaving copies of Stop the Violence at the end of the call with the victim may reduce the amount of recurring visits. The victim may not read the book that night, the next day or even possibly the next week but when they do, it gives them education about healthy and unhealthy relationships, the emotional and psychological damage to children in these situations, and steps to stop the cycle.
- Senior Citizen Center or Care **Center Visitation** — People age 65 and older are especially susceptible to victimization, neglect, and physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. By visiting with these citizens you can build their trust and educate them about violence and scams. When Disaster Strikes, Safe and Secure...Cons. Frauds and Scams. Safety When Out and About, Protecting Your Finances, and Emergency Evacuation for Elderly and Disabled are designed around their unique needs, so they are perfect handouts for these visits.
- Neighborhood Watch, Crime
 Watch Programs, and Business
 Watch Programs are some
 of the most effective and least
 costly ways to prevent crime,
 and reduce fear. Materials such
 as Safe and Secure, Detect and
 Detour, Cons, Frauds and Scams,
 Safety When Out and About, and
 Protecting Your Finances are
 perfect handouts for these visits.
- National Night Out Against
 Crime held on the first Tuesday
 of the month in August (in some
 states October). National Night
 Out is designed to heighten
 crime prevention awareness. It
 is a great way to get to know
 your community and goes hand
 in hand with Neighborhood
 Watch Programs, Business Watch
 Programs etc. These events do
 not have to be elaborate. It can
 be as simple as having the local

Fire Department take children for rides on a fire truck, showing young children the police cars and K9 officers, and handing out stickers and educational materials.

Chamber of Commerce and other community meetings —
Ask to speak or distribute material at regularly scheduled events like PTA meetings,
Chamber of Commerce meetings, or church gatherings. These already-planned events are an easy way to stay connected with your community members.
Distribute a bag with each of LAW Publications books like Let's All Work to Fight Drug Abuse, Active Shooter and Let's Play It Safe.

Challenge Your Law Enforcement Team to Reach Out

Community engagement works best when it is an ongoing process enabling relationships and trust to build and strengthen over time. Implementing any or all of these suggestions on a regular basis will make a positive difference in how your agency and your community come together to fight crime.

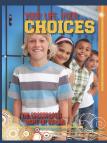
ADDITIONAL WAYS TO DISTRIBUTE YOUR COMMUNITY'S PUBLICATION













Law enforcement agencies across the country distribute our publications in many different ways. Here are some suggested distribution avenues that might be beneficial for your department:

Law Enforcement

- Coffee With A Cop
- Narcotics Officers
- Crime Prevention Programs
- Parent Intervention Meetings
- School Resource Officers
- D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. Programs
- Neighborhood Watch Captains
- Business Watch Programs
- · Citizens Police Academies
- First Offenders Programs
- DUI Education
- Teen Courts
- Victim Impact Classes
- Drug Intervention
- MADD Impact Presentations
- Officer Assisted Calls
- · Active Shooter Presentations
- Human Trafficking Outreach

Community Events

- Safety and County Fairs
- National Night Out
- Drug Education Forums
- Neighborhood Watch
- Block Parties
- Senior Centers
- Garage Sales

Civic Organizations

- Chamber of Commerce Lobby
- Rotary Club Presentations
- · City Council Meetings
- Junior League Meetings
- VFW Outreach

Medical

- Wounded Warrior Programs
- PTSD Therapy Programs
- Rehab Units and Hospitals
- Doctors, Dentists, and Emergency Care Lobbies
- Pharmacy Waiting Rooms
- AA, Al-Anon, Celebrate Recovery, and other Addiction Groups
- Drug Screening Facilities

Schools

- Teachers and Counselors
- Libraries
- PTA Meetings
- Choices and Consequences Education
- After School Programs
- · Red Ribbon Week
- Bicycle Rodeos
- Winter and Summer Break Programs
- At Risk Children's Programs
- Communities in Schools Programs
- Religious Organizations
- Youth Groups
- Seminars
- Small Groups and Prayer Groups
- Mission Trips
- Bazaars
- · School Resource Programs

Business Programs

- Presentations to Employee Groups
- Employee and Family Assistance
- Violence in the Workplace
- Drug Screening
- Community Service Outreach
- Business Watch Programs
- Active Shooter Preparation Programs
- Sexual Harrassment Programs

THE LIST IS ENDLESS! We hope this list will encourage you to get these valuable publications into the hands of your community!

If we can be of any assistance, or if you need more materials, please don't hesitate to contact us.