

Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers

474-TIPS Hotline



WHERE DID CRIME STOPPERS ORIGINATE?

In 1976 Albuquerque, New Mexico, a public outcry from a 19 year-old college student's murder led a local detective to a simple, but brilliant, idea. The community raised a reward fund, filmed a crime re-enactment, and gave viewers a phone number to call anonymously with information on the case and receive the reward if their information led to an arrest. Not only was the case solved by a tip, about one-hundred other calls came in from people wanting to give information about other crimes. They had hit upon a **crime-fighting goldmine**. A non-profit program called Crime Stoppers was formed with a volunteer board of citizens to approve rewards and raise funds. Soon Crime Stoppers spread across the country and today **there are Crime Stoppers hotlines in every state and in more than twenty other nations around the world.**

WHAT IS KANSAS CITY'S CRIME STOPPERS HISTORY?

Founded in 1982, **the Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline has helped keep the Kansas city metropolitan area a safer place to live, raise a family, do business, and visit for over a quarter-century.** Our program is recognized, year after year, as one of the world's leading Crime Stoppers programs. We are often called upon for advice by other existing programs and to help set up new programs in other cities.

Every day, our hotline rings with information from concerned citizens who want to tell what they know about crimes or wanted criminals. On average, **our hotline helps to solve four felony cases each and every day.** Our record of success over the years has included tips that helped solve many high profile crimes such as the Ali Kemp murder case, the 1988 deaths of six firefighters, the arrest of serial killer Richard Grissom, and many others.

In 2004, we began a partnership with Lamar Advertising. Lamar continues to donate valuable billboard space on which they display photos of fugitives wanted for murder in the metropolitan area. Since inception, this initiative has helped put at least eighteen suspects in jail and has become a model for other Crime Stoppers programs.

IS CRIME STOPPERS REALLY ANONYMOUS?

The Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline **does not record calls nor does it have caller ID.** When someone phones in with information, they can be completely confident that they will not be identified. Each caller is given a code number after giving their tip. It is up to them to stay in touch with Crime Stoppers to monitor any results of their information. If their tip results in a felony arrest, they will be told to call back on the day following the next Crime Stoppers board meeting. At monthly meetings, the board reviews all tips that resulted in arrests and approve, raise, or lower reward recommendations given by the program's coordinator. **All reward funds are derived from fundraising events or donations.** When the caller phones back, he or she is told to be at a certain drive-thru bank at a specific time on the next day where they must send in to tellers coded information given to them by the coordinator. As long as the information is correct, the cash reward is sent out to the caller and they simply drive away, their identity still unknown to Crime Stoppers.

In 1986, the Internal Revenue Service made a ruling exempting Crime Stoppers programs from having to collect personal information on callers in order to collect their rewards. **Remaining anonymous is one reason the program works.**

WHY DO WE NEED CRIME STOPPERS?

Police have a saying: somebody always knows. Many people are however reluctant to talk to police for two main reasons...Fear of Reprisal and Apathy (“Why should I get involved?”). Crime Stoppers breaks through these barriers.

The fear of reprisal is countered by **allowing callers to remain completely anonymous**. They never have to speak directly to police or testify in court. Obviously it is better for detectives to know who has information so they can better investigate, but the credo of Crime Stoppers is “**better anonymous information than no information at all**”. The offering of cash rewards crosses the barrier of apathy. Although many people refuse rewards, the availability of cash is an incentive to many callers who may not have otherwise given information.

Our Crime Stoppers program works closely with area media issuing press releases, providing photos of wanted fugitives, and suggesting story ideas for newscasts and print. Crime Stoppers is **an invaluable asset to the community in the fight against crime** in that it **gives citizens a safe and secure means to give information** that may help solve crimes. **Without Crime Stoppers, hundreds of dangerous fugitives would remain on our streets and in our neighborhoods.**

HOW DOES CRIME STOPPERS MAKE KANSAS CITY SAFER?

Our Crime Stoppers program is a vital resource in helping reduce crime in our community. With its triangle of cooperation between citizens, media, and law enforcement, Crime Stoppers is dedicated to putting criminals behind bars while building a foundation of trust and support. The goal of Crime Stoppers is to **make the streets safer for our families and neighborhoods.**

Since inception, the Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline has **taken more than 100,000 tips from concerned citizens**. Those tips have aided in the arrests of nearly 9,500 criminals and the clearing of over 22,000 cases or warrants. Among these cold statistics are solving nearly 600 murders, the capture of almost 2,500 wanted fugitives and arrests in approximately 1,500 armed robberies, among other many, many serious crimes.

Since it is a well documented fact that criminals tend to keep committing crimes, the sum of total arrests from Crime Stoppers tips has undoubtedly **prevented thousands of other crimes from occurring.**

A forty member volunteer citizen board of directors oversees our Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline. These people give their time and resources because they believe in the Crime Stoppers mission and want to keep the entire metropolitan community a safer place.

HOW DOES CRIME STOPPERS HELP KIDS?

Like many other Crime Stopper programs, ours is **deeply involved with young people**. We set up and sponsor **Campus Crime Stoppers programs** in area schools. Some programs are in individual schools and some entail entire school

districts. These programs **provide students a safe way to give information about drugs, guns, vandalism, thefts, or other crimes in their schools.** These programs are set up much the same way as our Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline and are overseen by a faculty administrator or school resource (police) officer.

In 2006, we helped establish new programs in the Lee's Summit School District and in Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kansas. There are active Campus Crime Stoppers programs in other areas in our community such as Raytown, Independence, Louisburg, and other cities.

In addition to this program, the Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline **partners annually with the Metropolitan Police Chiefs and Sheriff's Association in a scholarship essay contest.** The contest is open to any high school senior in the metropolitan area. Two winners are selected by a group of judges and each winner, one from each side of the state line, receives a \$1,000 scholarship to the college of their choice. Over \$20,000 in scholarships has been awarded to area youth.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Crime Stoppers is **committed to solving crimes, tracking down dangerous fugitives, and making our community safer.** To do this, **we need the support of our citizens and the business community we serve.** Our Crime Stoppers program is part of the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission, a 501.c.3 non-profit organization. As such, it depends upon fundraising events and donations to be able to continue performing its essential work for the community. Each year we hold three events to help **raise the funds necessary to ensure continued operation of our program.**

The **annual Crime Stoppers Golf Classic** is held each August. This sell-out event is an opportunity for business leaders and law enforcement officials to get together for an informal day of golf, food, and fellowship. We have many support opportunities such as hole sponsors, presenting sponsors, raffle or auction items, and other in-kind donations.

Each fall we have an evening of food, music, and fun at Arrowhead Stadium with our **annual Crime Stoppers Tent Event.** The night includes an open bar, "Taste of Kansas City Buffet", games, and raffles. The highlight of the evening is a spirited live auction of items including autographed sports memorabilia, vacation packages, hotel stays, and more! Local law enforcement agencies show their support by donating valuable gift baskets. We also have Chiefs Ambassadors (former players) and cheerleaders in attendance to sign autographs and take pictures. Other opportunities such as table sponsorships, presenting sponsor, raffle or auction items, and other in-kind donations are available.

In January we start off each year with our **annual Crime Stoppers Appreciation Breakfast** in which we honor the men and women of law enforcement agencies and media outlets who help make Crime Stoppers successful. Also presented are our two annual scholarship contest winners.

For more information, or to support Crime Stoppers Contact Amy Macey at 816-960-6800 or amacey@kc-crime.org

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Crime Stoppers benefits everyone in the metropolitan area. Do your part by supporting Crime Stoppers!