

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

INTRODUCTION

Although the images of September 11, 2001 seemed to emanate from Hollywood they were rooted in tragic reality. Whether it was the uncertainty on the faces of people unable to locate relatives against a backdrop of twisted steel girders, or the haunted eyes of the missing staring plaintively from thousands of flyers, it was painfully obvious that the world had changed forever.

As the evil emerged from the gray dust we discovered that yet another psychopath had unleashed his hatred on mankind. A comparison with Polly's killer illustrates how ambition and scale are the only things separating Osama bin Laden from the violent offenders who routinely terrorize America. As he cowers in mountain caves bin Laden skillfully convinces young men to die in his stead while Polly's killer lurked in shadows waiting for opportunities to convince little girls that he meant them no harm. The mad Arab uses religion and inequality to excuse and justify murder in much the same way that the killer used drugs and alcohol. Both commit heinous crimes for instant self-gratification without consideration for the consequences of their actions. Like all psychopaths, they lack conscience and consideration therefore they have no empathy for the children they murder with impunity. The twisted logic of the psychopath predictably asserts his cowardice through his declaration to destroy the future rather than attempting to convert it. It is inevitable that given the chance such men will strike again. They cannot be successfully treated or cured; therefore they cannot be trusted in negotiation or surrender.

' ***KlaasKids Foundation***

Why you need Neighborhood Watch

- ◆ A foreign enemy that has demonstrated total disregard for American lives has declared war on America.
- ◆ Domestic terrorists have also established a willingness to destroy our citizens and property as a means to their ends.
- ◆ Statistics show that eighty percent of us will become victims of violent crime at least once in our lifetime.
- ◆ A child is murdered in the United States every two hours.
- ◆ A violent crime is committed every sixteen seconds.
- ◆ A residential burglary is committed every nine seconds.

In many ways the world is presenting us all with a new, unpredictable and seemingly hostile environment, so in order to ensure our safety and the safety of our children we must be ever vigilant. One of the best ways to accomplish vigilance and create security is by linking up with our friends and neighbors and working together to create safe neighborhoods and communities. By monitoring and reporting unusual activities and individuals in a responsible manner we send a clear message to criminals and terrorists, "We protect our country from the bottom up. You have chosen wrong if you believe that we will be deterred or covered by deviate or lawless behavior. If you chose to break the law and terrorize, then do it somewhere else." By watching out for each other's children and property neighbors become active protectors of the homeland. Together, we can do this one block at a time.

Learn:

- ◆ How to actively participate in homeland security;
- ◆ The purpose and intent of Neighborhood Watch;
- ◆ The benefits of Neighborhood Watch;
- ◆ How to start Neighborhood Watch;
- ◆ Identifying key people in your neighborhood;
- ◆ The components of Neighborhood Watch;
- ◆ Goals of a Neighborhood Watch meeting;
- ◆ How to organize and implement a Neighborhood Watch meeting;
- ◆ Emergency numbers and how to report crime;
- ◆ Neighborhood Watch pro-action programs;
- ◆ Maintaining Neighborhood Watch.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I — OVERVIEW OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

What is Neighborhood Watch? ~ What is a neighborhood? ~ Why you need Neighborhood Watch ~ Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

CHAPTER II — HOW TO START NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Contact your local law enforcement ~ Open up a dialogue about crime in your neighborhood ~ Common objections to Neighborhood Watch

CHAPTER III — COMPONENTS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Identifying key people in your neighborhood ~ Block Captains ~ Assistant Block Captain ~ Block Captain Supervisor ~ Other Volunteer Duties ~ Good Neighbor Houses ~ Neighborhood Map & Phone Tree ~ Newsletter ~ Signs and Decals

CHAPTER IV — NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETINGS

How to put a meeting together ~ Tools of a meeting ~ First meeting agenda ~ Second meeting agenda

CHAPTER V — EMERGENCY NUMBERS AND HOW TO REPORT CRIME AND TERRORISM

The proper procedures for using (911) and non-emergency numbers ~ Your responsibility as an effective crime watch participant ~ The importance of documenting non-emergency neighborhood problems

CHAPTER VI — PROGRAMS

Operation Identification ~ Light the Neighborhood Program ~ House Numbering ~ Rape Prevention & Self Defense ~ First Aid Training ~ Security Inspections ~ Child Alert ~ Baby-sitting Phone Tree ~ Phone Checks for the Elderly and Handicapped ~ Fire Safety

CHAPTER VII — MAINTENANCE AND RESULTS

How to maintain Neighborhood Watch ~ Periodic meetings ~ Newsletter ~ Tangible results of Neighborhood Watch ~ Decreased crime ~ Neighbors working together to stop crime

CHAPTER I — OVERVIEW OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watch Is...

Neighborhood Watch is a valid and important component of a comprehensive homeland security strategy. The Neighborhood Watch program is dependent on citizen's participation and cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime and terrorism in our communities. The key element of an effective Neighborhood Watch program is for participants to responsibly report all suspicious persons and activities to local law enforcement.

A Neighborhood Is...

Neighborhoods exist in urban, suburban and rural communities and are not bound geographical borders, style or type of home. An apartment complex, condominium community or many other factors can determine the extent of a neighborhood, so it is really up to participating neighbors to define boundaries with which they are comfortable.

Benefits of Neighborhood Watch Include...

- ◆ By reporting suspicious persons and activities in your neighborhood to the authorities, you give law enforcement probable cause to approach those individuals and ask them their business. Criminals and terrorists know that otherwise, they can move through our neighborhoods, cities, states and country unrestricted, committing crime with impunity.

Mrs. Smith called the police about an unusual and unsavory character who was spending an inordinate amount of time on her block. From her kitchen window she noticed that neighbors avoided or shied away from the disheveled derelict. After checking, police arrested the convicted rapist and returned him to prison for parole violation. *Without probable cause, law enforcement may be restricted from intervening until after it is too late.*

- ◆ An effective Neighborhood Watch program provides an important layer of protection and intolerance to all types of external, threatening activity.
- ◆ By making neighborhoods safer, parents become role models to their own children.
- ◆ By establishing good neighbor houses on every block and protecting each other's child, neighbors embrace the proverb; "it takes the village to raise the child".
- ◆ We can improve the quality of life by working together to strip away the veils of fear by stopping crime or terrorism in our neighborhoods.
- ◆ By working with law enforcement, you become an active partner in protecting your community and your country.
- ◆ By building bridges of cooperation instead of walls of isolation, and working together for a common goal, you restore family values of responsibility, love, discipline, and respect. Children receive profound life lessons that they can pass along to future generations.
- ◆ By working together to protect each other's child and property, we can overcome our fears and take control of our destiny.

CHAPTER II — HOW TO START NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Now that President Bush has endorsed Neighborhood Watch as an integral component of a comprehensive homeland security strategy, local law enforcement agencies throughout America will promote and encourage Neighborhood Watch programs.

- ◆ Contact your local law enforcement and find out if they already have a Neighborhood Watch program in their system. Offer to get involved, or more importantly offer to organize the program and increase its awareness.
- ◆ Ask your local law enforcement if they will run background checks on your good neighbor houses. Remember, many states allow citizens to use the Internet to perform limited background checks on registered sex offenders. Take advantage of this valuable service by accessing the KlaasKids Foundation Megan's Law web page (www.klaaskids.org/pg-legmeg.htm).
- ◆ Walk your neighborhood with at least one other person. Introduce yourself, talk to your neighbors and get to know them. Explain that you are a concerned neighbor interested in neighborhood safety and homeland security. Discuss how Neighborhood Watch has effectively reduced crime in other neighborhoods. Invite them to a Neighborhood Watch meeting and demonstrate how you can work together with the common goal of protecting each other's children and property by fighting crime and terrorism. Law enforcement will provide you with statistics about crime in your area.

Common Objections to Neighborhood Watch

- ◆ If your neighbors say that they don't have time, explain that Neighborhood Watch is not only an inclusive program that involves a minimal investment of time and effort for individual neighbors, but it is also a patriotic duty.
- ◆ When your neighbors say that people should mind their own business, explain to them that fear from crime and terrorism is everybody's business. If they defer, remind them that the events of September 11, 2001 were the business of every American. In the current environment, people are afraid to go out after the sun goes down and parents are afraid to let their children out of their sight. We are in effect prisoners in our own homes.
- ◆ For neighbors that deny that there is crime in your neighborhood explain that statistics unequivocally prove that crime is continually spreading into the suburbs. It is to their benefit to stem that tide before it reaches your area.
- ◆ For neighbors who say that the threat of terrorism is over-exaggerated, explain that although terrorism is relatively new to our shores, there are many cultures that live with the daily threat of terrorism and those cultures that are proactive are the best protected and most secure.

CHAPTER III — COMPONENTS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Personnel — Identifying key people in your neighborhood

If you have decided to organize and facilitate a Neighborhood Watch program, your next task will be to ascertain key personnel, determine the level of their commitment and the tasks best suited to their talents and abilities. You can begin by gauging the level of their commitment as you walk your neighborhood discussing the project with neighbors, or at your first Neighborhood Watch meeting. Encourage them to get involved, explaining that once the program is organized and implemented it becomes a turnkey process. Ask them about their interests and abilities and where they would best serve the program as a volunteer.

There is no limit on how many **Block Captains** there are in any neighborhood. You are looking for trusted, decisive, pro-active individuals. The Block Captain will:

- ◆ Work with groups of six to eight homes and install a structure to watch out for each other's property;
- ◆ Be responsible for emergency information and phone numbers that may not be available to others in that group;
- ◆ Act as law enforcement liaison to inform the group about law breaking activities that have occurred in the neighborhood. (If you have a Block Captain supervisor that person will be the designated liaison with law enforcement);
- ◆ Maintain and update neighborhood map and phone tree.

The Block Captain should pick an assistant from within the home group. The **Assistant Block Captain** will:

- ◆ Distribute the newsletter and (911) information;
- ◆ Make phone calls and coordinate neighborhood projects;
- ◆ List the locations of dogs in the neighborhood. (Barking dogs alert neighbors to unusual and suspicious activities.)

The geographical boundaries of the neighborhood determine the size of the Neighborhood Watch chain of command. Large neighborhoods that have several Block Captains need a **Block Captain Supervisor** to be the designated contact for local law enforcement. The Block Captain supervisor:

- ◆ Oversees the distribution of materials and information to the Block Captains, who in turn inform the homes in their group. This chain of command reduces duplication and promotes efficiency and discipline;
- ◆ Collects work and home phone numbers, addresses, names and ages of people in the households. Emergency personnel (911) may need this information;
- ◆ Act as law enforcement liaison that informs their group about law breaking activities that have occurred in the neighborhood.

Many people can share responsibility for the **Other Volunteer Duties**. Secretarial skills and organizational abilities are necessary for some of the work.

- ◆ Taking minutes at Neighborhood Watch meetings.

- ◆ Typing and collating information.
- ◆ Copying and distributing neighborhood map, (911) information, newsletter, etc.
- ◆ Encourage neighbors with an interest in journalism, creative writing, art or design to get involved as a newsletter editor.

Physical Components — The Tools of Neighborhood Watch

How many **Good Neighbor Houses** should there be in a neighborhood? There should be as many as are necessary to fill the needs of the children in the neighborhood. A **Good Neighbor House**:

- ◆ Is a location in the neighborhood that provides a safe place for children in an emergency. If a child asks for help, the good neighbor is to call the child's parents, the school or law enforcement, whichever is needed;
- ◆ Is a refuge for a child from dogs, bullies, alarming strangers, sudden illness or injury;
- ◆ Is identified by a sign prominently located on the front of the house. The back of the sign should have emergency numbers for police, fire and medical services.
- ◆ Is not a transportation, baby-sitting or fast food service. A good neighbor will not give first aid except to stop excessive bleeding or to restore breathing;

Guidelines for Good Neighbor House Volunteers

- ◆ Provide a safe place for children in an emergency. If a child asks for help, the **Good Neighbor** is to call the child's parents, the school or local law enforcement, whichever is needed.
- ◆ Each **Good Neighbor** home is a refuge for a child from dogs, bullies, alarming strangers, sudden illness or injury.
- ◆ A **Good Neighbor** will act as an extra pair of eyes for the safety of the children. A **Good Neighbor** will be home when children are normally on the street going to or coming from their bus stop and school.
- ◆ A **Good Neighbor** will be provided with telephone numbers on the back of the window sign. In case of injury call local law enforcement when an ambulance is needed. They will dispatch the ambulance. Do not call yourself. You may be responsible for paying the service fee if the child's parents refuse to pay the bill. In case of a dog bite also call local law enforcement and they will dispatch an Animal Control Officer.
- ◆ A **Good Neighbor** is not a baby-sitter! You should not be responsible for a child of a delayed parent, especially if you have to leave your house in a short while. Call local law enforcement to have an officer take the child into protective custody.
- ◆ A **Good Neighbor** will not transport any child who comes for assistance. If the child misses the school bus and the parents cannot be reached, call the principal. If there is a problem after school and the parents cannot be reached, call the school principal to check the child's emergency card for an alternate phone number.
- ◆ A **Good Neighbor** will not give first aid except to stop excessive bleeding or to restore breathing. (Only persons with a valid First Aid card can legally administer first aid.) NOTE:

a damp face cloth on a bruised knee displays sympathy and helps a teary face and is not considered first aid.

- ◆ A **Good Neighbor** will not give food or drink to a child because of possible allergic reactions. You are not a cookie stop--only an emergency stop!

The **Newsletter** keeps neighbors aware of neighborhood activities and concerns. A well-written quarterly newsletter is a good way of distributing information to the neighborhood about:

- ◆ Agendas, time, and location of upcoming meetings;
- ◆ Providing incentive to neighbors not already active in Neighborhood Watch to get involved;
- ◆ Charting comparative neighborhood or community crime statistics over time to gauge the success of your program;
- ◆ Recognizing outstanding contributions by neighbors to the Neighborhood Watch program;
- ◆ Keeping neighbors abreast of neighborhood or community projects;
- ◆ Highlighting areas that need attention.

The **Neighborhood Map** establishes the foundation of your Neighborhood Watch network and the core of your **Phone Tree** (see appendix).

- ◆ The **Block Captain supervisor** and all **Block Captains** need **Neighborhood Maps and Phone Tree's** posted near their telephones. This allows immediate access to information when a need arises such as police, fire, and ambulance emergencies (911).
- ◆ Maps can be procured from law enforcement, real estate offices, utility or title companies.
- ◆ There should be two phone trees. One with information on groups for distribution to every member of the group. The other phone tree contains information for the entire neighborhood and should be kept by the Block Captains.

Neighborhood Watch Signs and Decals inform criminals that they are entering into a neighborhood that is seriously concerned about crime.

Personalized property signs and decals should be placed prominently on gates, yard entrances, and windows and bumper strips on the rear bumper of cars. Street signs are effective in alleys, cul-de-sacs, entrances to condominiums, and mobile home parks. Community entrance signs are effective for community or neighborhood entrances. They are also excellent in rural areas.

Neighborhood Watch signs and decals can be purchased from:

Garden State Highway Products, Inc.

1740 East Oak Road

Vineland, New Jersey, 08361

(Phone) 1-800-338-5685

(Fax) 856-692-6797

(Email) general@gardenstatehwy.com

(Internet) <http://www.gardenstatehwy.com/index.htm>

Signing America Corporation

5700 Columbia Circle

West Palm Beach, FL 33407

KlaasKids Foundation

P. O. Box 925 ~ Sausalito, CA 94966 ~ Tel: 415-331-6867 ~ Fax: 415-331-5633

URL: www.klaaskids.org ~ E Mail: klaaskids@pacbell.net

(Phone) 888-656-3465

(Email) info@signingamerica.com

(Internet) <http://www.signingamerica.com/>

Bay Area Barricade

1861 Arnold Industrial Way #1

Concord, CA 94520

Telephone: (925) 686-1089

Costs vary but are kept low. Divide the number of neighbors into the cost of the signs to minimize the financial burden.

KlaasKids Foundation

P. O. Box 925 ~ Sausalito, CA 94966 ~ Tel: 415-331-6867 ~ Fax: 415-331-5633

URL: www.klaaskids.org ~ E Mail: klaaskids@pacbell.net

CHAPTER IV — NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETINGS

Neighborhoods are like neighbors: they come with their own unique set of problems and concerns. Your first Neighborhood Watch meeting should result in an action plan. Promote an open discussion to establish a foundation that will reduce crime and protect against terrorism in your neighborhood. Subsequent meetings can resolve issues taken up at the first meeting and build upon the momentum that was established previously.

First Neighborhood Watch Meeting

Remember not to hold Neighborhood Watch meetings in your home because the notes your neighbors are taking may be inventory. Upon returning home from a long weekend the Smith family discovers that their house has been burglarized. Mr. and Mrs. Smith subsequently attended a Neighborhood Watch meeting at the home of a neighbor they didn't know in their neighborhood. The woman who greeted them at the door was wearing Mrs. Smith's stolen red dress. During the course of the meeting the Smiths recognized many of their stolen articles throughout the house.

- ◆ Contact a local school, church, or community organization and ask if they can provide you with a meeting room.
- ◆ Pick a time and date and inform your neighbors of the schedule by posting flyers throughout the neighborhood. Also, prepare an agenda for the first meeting.
- ◆ At the meeting, use flip charts, maps, hand out graphs and flyers to emphasize your important points.
- ◆ Have writing pads, pens, a black magic marker and the forms and documents provided in the appendix to this workbook. Use these tools to prioritize and establish achievable goals that address the concerns of all neighbors through shared responsibility.
- ◆ Use the safety and welfare of your children as a yardstick for identifying and prioritizing your goals.
- ◆ In order to effectively facilitate the meeting keep it focused, moving, and positive. Remember, you are laying the groundwork for effective solutions to fight crime in your neighborhood. Avoid leading a group gossip or complaint session.
- ◆ In order to maximize effectiveness try to keep the meeting under two hours. Remember that Hollywood routinely spends tens of millions of dollars to simply maintain our attention for two hours.
- ◆ Allow people to express anger and fear, but do not allow the venting of emotion to dominate the agenda.
- ◆ Save questions for the end of the meeting as many of the issues may be dealt with during the course of the meeting.
- ◆ Encourage neighbors to write down questions instead of blurting them out arbitrarily.
- ◆ Encourage your neighbors to use their imaginations and create ideas that lead to solutions that protect the entire neighborhood.
- ◆ Serve refreshments.

Agenda

- ◆ Introduce and explain a little bit about yourself and what has motivated you to implement a Neighborhood Watch program. (2-3 minutes)
- ◆ Ask if everybody is acquainted with the neighbors in the room. Have your neighbors introduce themselves to each other. (5 minutes)
- ◆ Discuss what individual neighbors have done or plan to do to curb crime in the neighborhood. (10 minutes)
- ◆ Discuss suspicious or criminal activities that plague the neighborhood such as auto theft, burglary, drugs, gang activity, drive by shootings, graffiti, etc., in a rational non-threatening way. Also discuss common concerns about domestic and foreign terrorism. (10 minutes if culprit individuals are not in attendance. 20 minutes if culprit individuals are in attendance.)
- ◆ Address current neighborhood conflict. Be respectful and remember that you share common goals. Neighbors directly affected by internal conflict should voice their concerns. Neighbors not directly involved can share commonsense suggestions toward conflict resolution. (10 minutes if culprit individuals are not in attendance. 20 minutes if culprit individuals are in attendance.)
- ◆ Explain the purpose of Neighborhood Watch and how it can be effective and successful if neighbors watch out for each other's interest. (10 minutes)
- ◆ Discuss which vehicles belong in your neighborhood and their daily routines. This assists your visual recognition of unusual or suspicious activity. Neighbors often times recognize each other only by the vehicles they drive. Discuss unusual work hours in your neighborhood. Many people work swing and graveyard shifts and this may account for unusual traffic patterns at seemingly inappropriate hours. (This information can be entered into the neighborhood map as the meeting progresses.)
- ◆ Identify, organize, and assign home groups, Block Captains, and Block Captain assistants. Enthusiasm should be so high that everybody is volunteering. (5 minutes)
- ◆ Encourage neighbors to gather home safety information such as vacation schedules, special deliveries, unusual activity around your home, and share it with their Block Captain. Notify a neighbor within your group when you are expecting technicians or service operators. Thieves and robbers sometimes operate under the guise of legitimate business. (Gather this information for the second meeting.)
- ◆ Discuss the purchase of emergency supplies such as non-perishable foods, bottled water, first aid kits, flashlights, battery-powered radios, batteries and emergency rain gear. You should assess the types of emergencies that affect your community such as hurricanes, tornados, floods or earthquakes and secure the appropriate supplies.
- ◆ Discuss good neighbor houses that meet the needs of all the children in your neighborhood. Since you are dealing with the well-being and safety of children, explain that background checks are necessary for the inhabitants of good neighbor houses. (5 minutes)
- ◆ Exchange information so that you can create comprehensive neighborhood maps and phone trees. Then turn the meeting over to the Block Captain. (This can be accomplished while the meeting is in progress.)
- ◆ Talk about Neighborhood Watch signs and decals. (5 minutes)

- ◆ Reiterate who the Block Captains are and which group you belong to. If persons not in attendance are picked as Block Captains, please notify them immediately. (5 minutes)
- ◆ Set a time and date for second meeting no more than two weeks in the future. Encourage attendees of the first meeting to bring at least one new neighbor to the next meeting.

Now that you have discussed the concerns of your neighborhood, encourage your neighbors to consider solutions to the problems facing your neighborhood so that they can be brainstormed at the next Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Second Neighborhood Watch Meeting

- ◆ If your agenda worked for the first meeting use it again. Keep the tone upbeat and acknowledge the hard work and progress of the volunteers. Introduce and integrate new neighbors into the program. Hopefully, your neighbors have acted to resolve some of the topics discussed at the first meeting. Now let's talk about those issues and see if they have been satisfactorily remedied or if they need additional attention. It will require patience to resolve some issues since you are dealing with diverse personalities.
- ◆ You may wish to invite a law enforcement representative to your second or third meeting to help establish the foundation and guidelines for a partnership that is beneficial to all parties involved. Law enforcement can make video's relating to crime awareness available to show at neighborhood and Block Captain meetings.

Introduce new topics such as good neighbor houses, the newsletter, and operation identification (chapter six). Hand out family data sheets to update the phone tree. Distribute suspicious activity forms and suspect & vehicle description forms. Explain their purpose and the correct way to use them. Again, keep the meeting under two hours and schedule another meeting two to four weeks in the future.

CHAPTER V — EMERGENCY NUMBERS: WHAT TO LOOK FOR AND HOW TO REPORT CRIME AND TERRORISM

- ◆ We have a responsibility as citizens to obtain factual documentation and quickly deliver it to local law enforcement. Careful documentation of ongoing neighborhood crime, abuse or terrorist activity is critical to and expedites the investigation and resolution of the problem. The criteria for prioritizing ongoing problems should be how it affects the welfare of your children and property. If it endangers either, it must be dealt with swiftly and professionally.
- ◆ Incorrect information is worse than no information. When reporting crime remember: what occurred; where it occurred; when it occurred; how many suspects there were; what they did; what they said; what they took; which way they went. Were there any other witnesses? Witnesses' names, addresses, and phone numbers? Is there any other information that you feel is important? Can you describe the suspect? Can you describe their vehicle?
- ◆ 911 is the designated emergency phone number for police, fire, and medical response and must be reserved for situations that necessitate emergency response. Police and fire departments have designated non-emergency dispatch numbers that prioritize calls. Educate children about the difference between emergency and non-emergency numbers. Post those numbers near your home phone.
- ◆ Immediately report suspicious activity and emergencies to (911). If something doesn't feel right it probably isn't and law enforcement should make the judgment as to whether or not to respond to it.
- ◆ Tell the dispatcher whether or not a crime is in progress. The number of suspects involved and whether or not weapons are visible.
- ◆ Be prepared to tell the (911) dispatcher whether or not you are reporting a life and death emergency. Speak clearly and do not become excitable when reporting crime. This way the dispatcher can obtain correct and vital information.
- ◆ If the (911) dispatcher asks you if this is an emergency, please answer yes or no. This is usually a sign that the dispatcher is tied up on another emergency call. If the answer is yes the dispatcher will take your information immediately. If your answer is no the next available dispatcher will take your call.
- ◆ Understand that a unit can be dispatched to your location while the dispatcher asks you important questions. The questions that you are answering are being forwarded to the emergency response unit giving so that they can prepare an effective response. A responsible citizen offers responding law enforcement officials any assistance they may need to protect their own safety.
- ◆ Under no circumstances should you attempt to apprehend criminals or terrorists or in any other way take the law into your own hands. The roll of citizen is to assist the watch; not to confront suspicious persons. The responsibility for apprehending criminals belongs to trained law enforcement officials.
- ◆ If you call (911), your street address and phone number will appear on your dispatcher's screen. In some cases so will your name. You can ask that your name not be used and the dispatcher will note that.
- ◆ Since (911) is a computerized system don't hang up if you dial it accidentally. Stay on the line and tell them that you have dialed a wrong number. If you feel a child or a pet has inadvertently dialed (911) and then hung up, call (911) back and explain the error. (911)

Hang-ups may have units dispatched immediately because it is a high priority call. Only 3% of such calls turn out to be actual emergencies.

- ◆ When you call a non-emergency phone number your address and phone number does not appear on the dispatcher's video screen unless they employ caller ID. This is because the non-emergency number is not on a computerized system.
- ◆ Once you have reported a crime stick with it.
- ◆ Victims in need should call 1(800) VICTIMS for assistance.

KlaasKids Foundation

P. O. Box 925 ~ Sausalito, CA 94966 ~ Tel: 415-331-6867 ~ Fax: 415-331-5633
URL: www.klaaskids.org ~ E Mail: klaaskids@pacbell.net

CHAPTER VI — PROGRAMS

Operation Identification is a nationwide partnership between law enforcement agencies, citizens, and the businesses they serve. The goal is to reduce property theft through a standardized identification system. Engraving devices are available at hardware and office supply stores.

- ◆ Use your driver's license number and state of issue as your identification number. Any identified items that are stolen can then be processed by law enforcement throughout the fifty states. When you have items that are engraved with your driver's license and wish to sell them simply strike a single line through the number so that it is still legible. The person you sell the item to can then engrave their driver's license number beneath yours. Law enforcement will notify the first ID listed on recovered stolen items.
- ◆ Mark all articles in concealed, hard-to-detect areas and record the location of all items identified. Use an electric engraver on metal, wood or hard plastic. Your ID number should be on all removable parts in two places; one visible (front or side) and one hidden. Visible markings are helpful for personal and law enforcement identification.
- ◆ Permanent, waterproof, indelible, infrared security markers work on porous surfaces. Markings may survive 2 or 3 cleanings on furs and clothing that need dry cleaning. Incandescent ultra-violet light bulbs that allow you to know if re-marking is necessary and are available at lighting specialty companies.
- ◆ All-purpose markers are great for surfaces where quick visible identification is desired. Laundry markers are available for clothing, bedding, and other washable items.
- ◆ Items most susceptible to theft include anything new, portable or not secured. Electronic gear, bikes, binoculars/cameras, computers, furs, guns, recreational equipment, jewelry, and silver.
- ◆ Thieves find it difficult to fence stolen articles traceable through an owner's personal identification number because they can be prosecuted when they are caught with marked items. Marked items can be easily returned to the rightful owner.

Mrs. Smith was both delighted and relieved when the Sheriff called to report that her stolen jewelry had been located and would be returned upon verification. Apparently, a pawnbroker reported the identification information etched into a clasp to the authorities. The thief was arrested and her jewelry was returned.

Here are twelve months worth of pro-active solutions you may wish to adopt as part of your Neighborhood Watch program.

- ◆ **House Numbering** — Place home addresses on upper left corner of all garages (assuming it faces front) in large stenciled letters in same color as house trim. This allows emergency vehicles to quickly scan neighborhood for a particular address. Uniform signage in the color of house trim is an attractive way of achieving this goal.
- ◆ **Rape Prevention & Self Defense** — Find a local organization such as karate school, rape crisis center or law enforcement agency to demonstrate rape prevention and self-defense at Neighborhood Watch meeting free of charge.
- ◆ **First Aid Training** — Invite local fire department or medical facility to put together a first aid/CPR training course for your meeting.

- ◆ **Security Inspections** — Check dead bolts, window locks, garage doors (manual and automatic), condition of sliding glass doorframes, and home landscaping to decrease your chance of becoming a victim. Law enforcement states that many dead bolts are improperly installed.
- ◆ **Child Alert** — Teach your children the safety information they need to feel safe, secure, and protected in their neighborhood.
- ◆ **Baby-Sitting Phone Tree** — A referral service for exceptionally competent baby-sitters. This provides quality care for all children in the neighborhood.
- ◆ **Phone Checks for the Elderly and Handicapped** — Provide a back up service for elderly or handicapped persons when family members are unable to check on their well being.
- ◆ **Fire Safety** — Begin a campaign to provide smoke detectors in every home. Establish fire safety plans for every home that include fire extinguishers, escape routes, and where to meet after a burning building has been evacuated. Invite a representative from your local fire department to address your meeting on fire safety.
- ◆ **Light the Neighborhood Program** — The benefits of leaving your porch light on all night far outweigh any cost considerations. This action lights up shadow areas that people hide in and is an effective deterrent to criminals who prefer to work in the dark. If every home puts a motion light up in their front and back yard, a suspect hopping fences to get away from police can be tracked from the air and ground by the lights going off in succession. If a neighborhood is having a particular rash of crimes this program is a good way to deter further criminal activity.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith implemented a **Light the Neighborhood Program** as a component of their Neighborhood Watch, established as a result of a rash of residential burglaries. One evening Mrs. Smith noticed activity in the home of a family on vacation and promptly called the authorities. Police arrived before the thieves could get away with anything and in fact forced them to seek escape through the back door of the home they were burglarizing. Unfortunately, as they jumped fences in their attempt to escape they kept triggering motion detectors in one backyard after another. The police simply tracked their progress by watching a series of lights go on and off in backyards along the block. When the thieves jumped the corner house they were promptly arrested. The Smith's neighborhood has not been burglarized since which just goes to show that neighbors working together can create safe neighborhoods and communities.

CHAPTER VII — NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: RESULTS AND MAINTENANCE

Neighborhood Watch is not an excuse for vigilantism or a justification for militia. Our responsibility is to obtain factual documentation and immediately deliver it to local law enforcement. An effective Neighborhood Watch program provides a layer of protection and intolerance to criminal activity. Handle ongoing conflicts concerning areas such as: vehicle vandalism; crack houses; child abuse and neglect; graffiti; and incidents involving guns or explosives, etc., in this manner. By doing our duty as responsible Neighborhood Watch participant we can expedite the end result: Creating a safer neighborhood.

- ◆ Neighborhood Watch should be showing a noticeable decrease in criminal activity in your area.
- ◆ Neighborhood Watch should alleviate any overt concerns over terrorist activities.
- ◆ Unusual and suspicious activity is being monitored, documented, and reported to law enforcement.
- ◆ Suspicious activity and ongoing neighborhood problems are being carefully documented.
- ◆ Citizens are writing down descriptions and other pertinent information before calling (911).
- ◆ Neighbors are entrusting emergency numbers and information to designated people in the neighborhood.

Now that you know who your neighbors are you can help each other. It is vitally important that you hold meetings on a regular schedule. You have created a pro-active program to stop crime in your neighborhood. It takes responsibility to maintain your Neighborhood Watch program. Show your children, through example, the benefits of working with others to create a safe society and they will develop habits that they can then pass on to their children. We are faced with a simple choice. Either we are part of the solution or we are part of the problem. If you have observed the guidelines thus far:

- ◆ Neighbors are making each others homes look inhabited when you are not home;
- ◆ Periodic meetings and Block Captain meetings offer a forum to discuss problems and implement solutions to those problems. Discuss success, progress or problems in the program. You are trying to achieve a trust and comfort level that your goals are being met;
- ◆ A newsletter is being produced on a regular basis.

Neighborhood Watch is more than a crime prevention program. It entails returning old-fashioned values to a new world of uncertainty. Neighborhood Watch empowers families to control their own fate. Keeping your children and property safe becomes a way of life. De-escalating crime and being vigilant about terrorist activities and creating a safe neighborhood should be the only incentive you need for maintaining Neighborhood Watch.

Know your neighborhood. It's one of the most important things you can do to guarantee the safety of your children. Show them the safest places to play and areas to avoid like dark alleys. Most importantly, know your neighbors. The more you know about your neighborhood the safer your family will be.

Neighbors. They wouldn't be so bad if they didn't live next door.

The KlaasKids Foundation wishes to thank Mrs. Janice Gomes for her assistance in compiling the information in this workbook.

APPENDIX

Neighborhood Watch forms facilitate the reporting of crime and assist in organizing an effective Neighborhood Watch program.

1. **Family Data Sheet** — The Block Captain or Block Captain Supervisor maintains this form. This allows them to keep track of unusual vehicle activity, barking dogs, and telephone numbers in case of emergency.
2. **Suspect and Vehicle Description Sheet** — To be maintained in each household and used when reporting crime. By filling out the information on the description sheet you will be able to answer (911) questions effectively and succinctly.
3. **Neighborhood Watch Map** — This form establishes the foundation of your Neighborhood Watch network. The Block Captain Supervisor and all Block Captains need this information posted near their telephones. This allows immediate access to information when a need arises such as police, fire, and ambulance emergencies.
4. **Phone Tree** — There should be two phone trees. One phone tree with information on neighborhood groups for distribution to every member of the group. The other phone tree contains information for the entire neighborhood and should be kept by the Block Captain Supervisor.
5. **Good Neighbor** — Guidelines for volunteers

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
PHONE TREE**

	ADDRESS	NAME	WORK #	HOME #
1.	112 Oak Road	Dick & Jane Wood	555-1212	555-2424
2.	114 Oak Road	John & Joan Doe	555-3535	555-4646
3.	116 Oak Road	Harry & Mary Smith	555-5757	555-6868
4.	10 Pine St.	Bill & Hillary Klinton	555-7979	555-8080
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				