

Media Alert

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Contact:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Crimestoppers of Greater New Orleans

Announces the **GRADUATION** of the first

Teen Ambassadors Against Crime Leadership Program

Crimestoppers President and CEO Darlene Cusanza proudly announces the graduation of **31 Teen Ambassadors** representing **22 public, private and parochial schools from Jefferson, Orleans and St. Tammany parishes** who have successfully completed the Crimestoppers **“Teen Ambassadors Against Crime”** (TAAC) program. A graduation will be held on **Thursday, June 23, 2011 at Stuart Hall for Boys School 2032 S. Carrollton Avenue in New Orleans at 7 p.m.** ***The media is invited to attend.***

The TAAC students participated in a year long program which focused on issues facing our youth with regards to crime and teen victimization. Teens spent time visiting criminal justice professionals, victims and their families, the media and participated in a community wide Teen Peace Summit. The Ambassadors service learning project included producing a Hip Hop Video with Dee 1 and a Public Service Announcement to counter the “No Snitch” mentality our children have learned and to empower fellow youth to make a positive contribution to community safety by reporting crime. A summary of the year has been attached.

Many thanks to our sponsors and partners in criminal justice who worked with our program: Target, New Orleans Carriage Cab, State of Louisiana, Jefferson Parish Sheriff Dept., N.O. Police Dept., US Marshals, Orleans Parish Sheriff Dept., Kenner Police Dept., Louisiana State Police, New Orleans Criminal Court – Judge Robin Pittman, N.O. District Attorney’s office, US Attorney, DEA, WWL, Federal Court Judge Jay Zainey, Rev. Kathy Radke, WDSU, Louisiana National Guard; State Attorney General, Cox Communications; Cox K-TV 76; Dee 1; Clear Channel Radio

TAAC Leadership Program Goals

Crimestoppers Teen Ambassadors Against Crime (TAAC) Leadership Program will help students gain a better understanding of the criminal justice arena, including the role that students can and do play in community safety. Our goal is to help students engage law enforcement and other community partners, and to become empowered to serve as crime prevention role models for their peers and other teens in their community. The TAAC Leadership Program educates students about the costs and consequences of crime, both in personal lost as well as economic, their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and their ability to bring about meaningful change through advocacy and service. It provides youth interested in public safety and crime prevention an opportunity to engage in ongoing, active participation in crime prevention, to help groom them as future leaders who will make positive impacts on our community.