

## **What is it?**

As a nonprofit organization, Crime Stoppers involves the Community, the Media, and Law Enforcement in the fight against crime. Cash rewards up to \$1000 are offered to citizens who furnish information leading to the arrest and charges filed of felony crime offenders or to the capture of felony and Class A misdemeanor fugitives.

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### **• How does it work?**

Most of the information received by Crime Stoppers is by telephone. You may call 903-597-CUFF any time, with information about any unsolved crime. If you are calling from outside Smith County you may call 1-800-575-2833.

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When Crime Stoppers receives a call, they log it with the date and time, and a brief summary of the caller's information. They furnish callers with a secret code number that is used in subsequent transactions to identify the caller. Callers may remain completely anonymous, with no pressure to reveal their identity, and still collect their rewards.

If a caller's information results in the arrest and indictment of an offender or the apprehension of a fugitive, the caller will have received instructions on when to call back to check their case. When the caller does call back at that time they will give him information that will allow him to receive his or her reward in cash and still preserve his or her anonymity.

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### **• How are the rewards paid?**

Prominent area citizens have volunteered their time and have formed a board of directors to oversee the Crime Stoppers program. This board approves the rewards to be paid, based on information presented by the Police Coordinator. The board does not know who called in the information. It is presented the facts about the case or fugitive in question and the code number of the caller is the only identifier used.

Once the board approves a reward and the caller has called back to check on the case, the Crimestopper Coordinator will give the caller his or her instructions on how to pick up the reward. They give the caller special code information and he or she is directed to a local bank. The caller uses this code information by giving it to a teller at the drive-through at the bank. The teller will verify the code information, and return to the caller an envelope with the caller's cash reward money. The caller then drives off with no one knowing who he or she was.

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### **• How does the program get additional information?**

In order to publicize the Crime Stoppers program and maintain a high profile in the community, fugitives and unsolved crimes are featured through several types of media outlets such as: television, radio, newspaper, cable, mail, billboards, and flyers.

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- **Does it work?**

Yes! Crime Stoppers is working, and it works without spending a lot of TAX dollars. The only tax dollars spent is the Coordinators salary and the office space that the City of Tyler donates to the program. The majority of all the rewards paid come from Tax-deductible donations and probationers fees. Crime Stoppers is a nonprofit organization 501c (3) and is funded **through donations from the public**. Contributions are Tax deductible!.

**Mail all contributions to:**

**Tyler-Smith County Crimestoppers, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 702**

**Tyler, Texas 75710.**

Help to make your community a safer place to live. Call Crime Stoppers today. Remember, you do not have to give your name and you could earn a reward up to \$1,000.00. It pays to Talk!

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- **History of the Crimestoppers Program**

In July of 1976, in Albuquerque New Mexico, a university student was killed during a gas station robbery. After six weeks of investigation the police had very few leads as to who was responsible. Police Detective Greg MacAleese thought that if the public was able to observe a reenactment of the crime on television this may lead to a citizen providing information that may lead to an arrest.

Greg MacAleese was right. A caller contacted the police department the next day after seeing the reenactment. The tip information was enough to lead the police to the two men who were responsible. Within seventy two hours of the reenactment being aired, the police had solved the murder. This was the beginning of Crime Stoppers.

Since the program started, there are now more than 950 Crime Stoppers programs worldwide. More than 425,000 crimes solved since inception and over \$2.9 billion Dollars worth of stolen property and narcotics has been seized.

Locally, the Tyler-Smith County Crimestoppers program is also very successful. Since 1981, Tyler-Smith County Crimestoppers has helped clear over 4200 cases, over 4.5 million in stolen property recovered, 1.2 million narcotics seized and paid out over \$560,000 in rewards.