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AWARENESS ■ PREVENTION ■ INTERVENTION

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Forward

A Letter From Will County State's Attorney James W. Glasgow

Dear Parents and Educators:

I am pleased to present you with the most recent edition of the state's attorney's gang awareness and prevention book. My office has been publishing these books since the early 1990s to educate citizens about the violent gangs that operate here in Will County. The Chicago Tribune once dubbed it "the primary primer on gangs." It has always been my hope that these books will give readers an understanding of how street gangs function while encouraging them to take the necessary steps to protect their children and help make their neighborhoods safer.

I have found time and time again that the most effective way to deal with social problems is at the grassroots level. We are in a war against gangs and drugs, and I truly believe we will eradicate gangs in Will County by continuing a course of aggressive intervention and prosecution. However, law enforcement cannot succeed in a vacuum. This battle requires that we have a strong sense of family, neighborhood and community. Everyone must join the fight to stop this problem. Parents, teachers, business leaders and government officials must learn the warning signs so they can help stop gang infiltration in its tracks.

The only way to ensure gangs are eradicated is to pull together as a community to foster a strong and genuine sense of self-esteem in our young people. I can tell you without hesitation that a young person whose self-esteem is encouraged by positive role models will not join a gang or use illegal drugs. We must recognize, however, that our children are vulnerable to negative influences because they do not have the maturity, education and life experiences necessary to navigate in today's complex society.

In 1993, I began a grassroots organization called C.E.A.S.E.-F.I.R.E (Character Education Activates Self Esteem – Fostering Individuals Respecting Each Other) to raise funds to implement Character Education in our schools, beginning at age 5. We have continued this effort with the Character Counts initiative. Every dollar we spend on prevention saves us ten to twenty dollars in remedial costs.

When I first took office in December of 1992, street gangs were terrorizing many sections of Will County. Gangs had a stranglehold on many local neighborhoods. Gang shootings had reached unprecedented levels, and citizens were afraid to cooperate with police out of fear of retaliation.

In 1993 I established our first gang unit, and my office worked with local police to target the gang leaders responsible for the violence that was destroying so many lives and wreaking havoc on our neighborhoods. In that first unprecedented gang sweep, we took 47 high-level gang members off our streets. Gang shootings in Joliet alone the following year dropped from a record high of 296 to 180. This aggressive and innovative interdiction, which eliminated all gang shootings for three full months, was featured on Peter Jennings' World News Tonight.

In our continuing assault on gang violence, the State's Attorney's Office and local police joined forces with federal authorities on a number of gang sweeps over the years. In one sweep during the late 1990s, we targeted the Latin Kings; in another, we hit the Gangster Disciples. Both efforts proved successful, disrupting gang activity by taking leaders off the streets with extended federal sentences.

Because of our aggressive actions, gang shootings in recent years have never reached the unprecedented levels of the late 1980s and early 1990s. Still, we continue to see periodic spikes in violence as gang leaders cycle in and out of prison and young members rise into leadership positions.

Law enforcement in Will County is committed to dealing aggressively with gangs. But we cannot fight alone. The entire community has a stake in this battle. We cannot become complacent. We must remain vigilant. We must not surrender any ground in our neighborhoods to street gangs.

We as parents must make it our business to know what our teen-agers are doing and with whom they are associating. Teachers and principals must be vigilant when students flash gang signs or draw gang symbols in our schools. Community leaders must move quickly to eliminate gang graffiti when it appears on private and public property.

I have prepared this book as a tool to instruct our community on the evils of gangs, and most importantly, on how to deal with them. I will continue to make myself and members of my Gang Prosecution Unit available for gang awareness presentations throughout the county. It is my goal to make Will County as safe for our children today as it was during my childhood.



James W. Glasgow

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James W. Glasgow".

James W. Glasgow
Will County State's Attorney

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Gangs: A NATIONAL PROBLEM

Street gangs were once considered to be primarily an urban, big-city problem. But look around your own neighborhood. You might be surprised to see signs of gang activity on your own street, regardless of whether you live in an established neighborhood or a new subdivision, a suburban community or even a rural small town.

The 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment surveyed hundreds of police agencies across the United States to document levels of gang activity. The report, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Justice and includes intelligence generated by the FBI, notes that gang "influence has contaminated the surrounding suburban areas and spread into rural communities." It also cites statistics estimating there are 731,500 individual gang members who belong to some 21,500 gangs across the nation.

The report also notes:

- **Gangs remain the primary distributor of drugs throughout the United States.**
- **U.S. gangs are associating with organized criminal groups from Mexico, Asia and Russia.**
- **Many gangs are becoming more sophisticated in the use of computers and other technology to facilitate their criminal activity.**

In the Midwest:

- **Gang activity around schools and college campuses is on the rise.**
- **Gang members are concealing their affiliations and colors to confuse police.**
- **The Chicago area remains a transportation hub for the movement of illegal drugs throughout the country.**
- **Nearly 50 percent of surveyed police agencies reported either significant or moderate increases in gang activity in the previous five years.**
- **Roughly 40 percent of responding police agencies reported high levels of gang involvement in the illegal distribution of marijuana.**
- **More than 36 percent of responding police agencies reported high levels of gang involvement in the illegal distribution of crack cocaine.**

(Source: 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment)

A WILL COUNTY CONCERN

Today, more than a dozen gangs claim territory or have a presence in Will County. Local police deal with the same problems – drug dealing, violence, robberies,

Sweeps cripple gangs, take leaders off streets

Efforts by local law enforcement agencies to crack down on gang crime have been highly successful in reducing levels of gang violence in Will County over the past 15 years.

At the end of 1993, cooperating local police agencies worked with federal law enforcement officials on a sweep that resulted in the arrests of 47 high-level gang members and enabled the Will County State's Attorney's office to obtain more than 50 indictments.

The aggressive anti-gang initiative, which was profiled nationally on World News Tonight hosted by Peter Jennings, produced immediate results. Taking these gang leaders off the streets crippled two of the four major street gangs operating in Will County at the time. Gang shootings in Joliet dropped from a record 296 in 1993 down to 180 in 1994. In the three months after the sweep, there was not a single gang shooting.

Other gang sweeps followed with names like Operation Regal, which targeted the Latin Kings, and Operation Hilltop, which cracked down on the Gangster Disciples. These aggressive gang sweeps played a major role in driving down gang violence throughout the 1990s, with shootings in Joliet dipping to 84 in 1999.

Levels of gang violence have risen and dropped during the first part of this decade. Local law enforcement officials attribute the ebb and flow of gang activity in part to the cycling of leaders and hard-core members in and out of prison and to younger gang members rising through the ranks. It is important to note, however, that gang violence has never reached the unprecedented levels of the 1980s and early 1990s.

There have been reports, including one released in the summer of 2007 by the Justice Policy Institute, stating that suppression tactics including gang sweeps have failed to protect the public. Those conclusions, however, are contradicted by law enforcement's experiences here in Will County over the past 15 years. Gang sweeps play a critical role in reducing gang crime when combined with prevention and intervention programs like those that are discussed in Chapter 7 of this book.



Gangs: A NATIONAL PROBLEM

burglaries, thefts and graffiti – that are documented in the National Gang Threat Assessment.

Will County's explosive population growth and expansion in the housing sector have made gangs a regional problem. The development of new subdivisions and the subsequent annexations by local municipalities have brought the boundaries of many communities closer together. As a result, gang activity can no longer be considered a problem isolated in certain towns. Today, more than ever, street gangs are a countywide problem. Even if your local police department is reporting a decrease in gang crime in your town, you still may see signs of gang infiltration in your own neighborhood.

Gang crime is on the rise in some communities, and this increase mirrors problems many communities across the nation face. The FBI's Uniform Crime Report documented a 1.3-percent increase in violent offenses – murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault – for 2006. Although the national report does not identify the percentage of these crimes that can be attributed specifically to gangs, some criminologists have linked the hike in crime to an increase in the juvenile population, children who have easy access to guns and the rise of serious gang problems in smaller jurisdictions.

Local gang experts attribute increases and declines in gang crime to a number of factors. Law enforcement gang sweeps conducted throughout the 1990s and 2000s took many violent gang leaders off the streets and put them behind bars. These sweeps drove down the number of gang shootings. But the violence began to creep up as these leaders cycled out of the prison system and younger gang members rose through the ranks.

CROSSING BOUNDARIES

The most serious gang violence continues to be concentrated in sections of our communities that are plagued by high unemployment, low incomes, a lack of economic opportunity and aging housing stock. But gang violence also has been reported in newer subdivisions across Will County.

In addition, several major interstates – Interstates 55, 57 and 80 – converge in Will County, making the region a transportation hub for the movement of illegal drugs, including marijuana and cocaine, in all directions of the country. As this book was being prepared in the summer of 2007, the Will County Sheriff's Gang Suppression Unit had seized 400 kilograms of pure cocaine that had been placed in packing boxes affixed with meat company labels. The cocaine had an estimated street value of \$80 million.

The best way to stop gangs from expanding is to acknowledge their presence and to act aggressively. Will County's police agencies routinely share intelligence on street gangs and their activities. Parents and educators also must recognize signs of gang activity in their schools and in their communities.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The first sections of this book provide specific information about street gangs: how they operate; the crimes they commit; how they exert their influence; the way they dress; the meaning behind the signs and symbols they display.

This book also outlines warning signs that a youth has joined a street gang or may be leaning toward gang involvement. It also focuses on the serious and often violent consequences of joining a street gang, not only for gang members, but for their siblings, parents and friends.

Scattered throughout this book are real-life accounts of how gangs have shattered the lives of families in our own communities.

It is our hope this information will enable parents, educators and community leaders to recognize signs of gang activity in their homes, neighborhoods and schools. Once they are able to identify these signs, they can take the necessary steps to intervene for the protection of their children and their community.

A WORD OF WARNING

This book is intended for parents and educators. The information contained here certainly should be used as a basis for frank discussions with young people about the dangers of joining a street gang. However, sections illustrating gang symbols and gestures are directed toward adults. Please do not allow unsupervised children to use this book as a tutorial on how act like a gang member.



What is a GANG?

A WORKING DEFINITION

A gang is a group of individuals who are unified by a common ideology that revolves around criminal activity. These criminal activities typically include drug dealing, armed robberies and vehicle thefts.

Street gangs are territorial and will attack their rivals in retaliation for the most trivial perceived offense or simply to display allegiance to their own gang. These attacks often involve handguns or other weapons and can result in the murder or serious injury of their targets and innocent bystanders (*see related story, right*).

Gang members typically range in age between 16 and 24, although newcomers can be as young as 10, and some longtime members are known to be in their 50s.

There is often an established hierarchy within a gang, but this is not always the case.

GANG CRIMES

Young people learn criminal behavior from negative role models, particularly when positive role models are absent. Youngsters who have become socialized in the gang lifestyle view breaking the law and other antisocial behavior in a favorable light because his or her friends and role models define these activities in a similar fashion.

Gang crimes vary widely. Gang shootings – murders, attempted murders, drive bys, aggravated batteries with firearms – are the most serious crimes and receive the most media attention.

Most gang activity, however, is focused on making money. Since most hardcore gang members do not go to school and are not employed, they seek income through illegal means, including drug dealing, burglaries, thefts and armed robberies. Gang associates who are employed or who attend school will participate in these activities also.

Little boy takes bullet in the arm in gang shooting

A bystander couldn't have been more innocent than the 8-year-old boy who took a bullet in the arm when a gang member tried to gun down a rival in September 2004.

In truth, the little boy wasn't even a bystander. He wasn't even out in the street. On the afternoon of the bungled drive-by shooting, the boy was inside his own living room doing his homework when a stray bullet struck his arm.

Luckily, the boy survived the indiscriminate shooting. The intended target, who was standing in the 700 block of East Washington in Joliet, didn't suffer a scratch.

The alleged assailant fled the scene and went into hiding. Police picked him up on a warrant two months after the shooting in south suburban Matteson. He currently is awaiting trial.



Street gangs historically have been the main distributors of illegal drugs across the nation, and the same is true in Will County. The drugs that are most prevalent on Will County's streets are crack cocaine, cocaine, heroin and marijuana.

Gangs have become increasingly sophisticated in illegal ways to make money. "The Gang Book," compiled by the Chicago Crime Commission, devotes a section to gangs that have developed lucrative mortgage and real estate fraud operations, one of which was operated by the Chicago Vice Lords and involved \$80 million in illegal activity.

Gangs also have become involved in identity theft and

What is a GANG?

Internet crimes. The Gang Book notes that gang members take positions with telemarketing firms to con people out of cash and gain access to credit cards and financial identities.

Gangs often seek confrontation with their rivals. Because young people today have easy access to transportation, confrontations are inevitable. Violent conflicts can take place on neighborhood streets, at entertainment venues, in shopping malls and other public areas. The resulting violence can and has claimed innocent Will County victims.

CATEGORIZING GANG CRIME

Local law enforcement officials categorize the crimes committed by gang members in the following ways:

- **Gang-Motivated Crime:** This is any criminal offense that seeks to establish or enhance the status of a particular street gang and to further that gang's goals. Examples include gang-organized drug dealing or violent attacks against rival gang members.
- **Gang-Involved Crime:** This is any criminal offense committed by an individual who is known to be a gang member. This category includes crimes that would normally be committed for the benefit of the individual rather than the gang.

Romeoville teen suffers beating by gang members in his own living room

A Romeoville teen-ager learned several years ago that gang violence can come knocking at your front door.

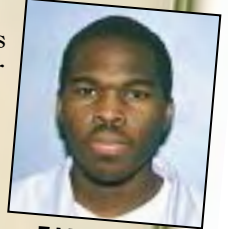
The teen-ager, a high school honor student who was never involved in a gang, was at his home one afternoon in January 2006 when Eddie J. Craig, a known gang member, knocked on his front door.

Craig and three accomplices were looking for a rival gang member they believed to be in the neighborhood. They knocked on the unsuspecting victim's door twice asking for a person named Tyrell and were turned away.

On the third visit, they forced their way into the house and beat the youth in his own living room. The beating was so savage that the attackers left a shoe print on the young man's face. The youth suffered a concussion, a torn lip and multiple bruises and scratches.

Craig, of Romeoville, was convicted in December 2006 of home invasion and aggravated battery at the conclusion of a bench trial. Several months later, a judge sentenced Craig to nine years in prison.

Romeoville detectives working the case developed leads pointing to Craig's involvement in the attack. The victim identified Craig in a photo line up and testified against his attacker during the trial.



Eddie J. Craig



The Gang **STRUCTURE**

Gang membership involves different levels of commitment and participation depending upon a member's rank. The number of members in a given gang may vary from a handful to hundreds. Gangs will typically recruit as many members as possible. The larger the gang, the stronger its influence and the more daring it becomes when challenging rival gangs.

LEADERSHIP

Gang leaders typically are older members with long criminal records. They direct the gang's criminal activity, including drug dealing. They give orders to younger members to commit acts of violence against rivals. Leaders typically rise to the top by committing ruthless acts of violence. They maintain their rank in prison and may continue to direct gang activities while they are behind bars.

HARD-CORE MEMBERS

Hard-core members are devoted to the gang and its criminal activities. The gang is their primary source of interest in life. They carry out the gang's day-to-day criminal operations, including acts of violence. They demonstrate their loyalty with tattoos depicting their gang's symbols. Hard-core members literally live for the gang.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Associate members are active gang members who readily identify themselves as a member of the gang but are not generally involved with the heavy violence associated with the hard-core members. All associate gang members have the potential of evolving into hard-core gang members.

PERIPHERAL (FRINGE) MEMBERS

A peripheral member is generally a younger person who lives in the gang's neighborhood and hangs out on the fringe of the gang structure. He is not normally involved with the violent criminal activity. But he is ripe for recruitment to play a more active role as he gets older.

Note: Many who are associate or fringe members may be reluctant to declare their affiliation with a gang. They will say their friends are gang members, but they are not. Or they may say they only hang around with gang members. But rival gang members shooting from a speeding car do not distinguish between a hard-core member, an associate, a fringe member or even an innocent bystander.

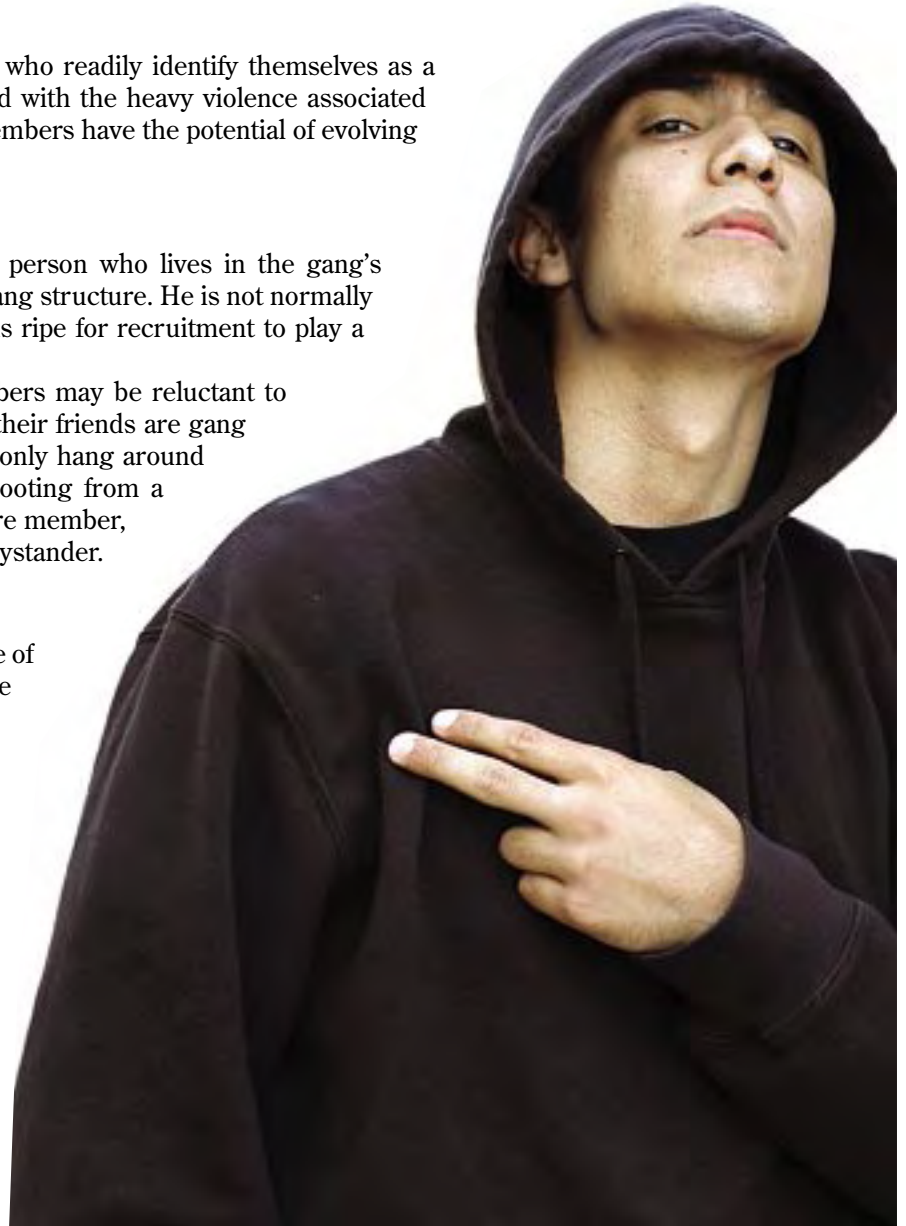
PEE WEES OR SHORTIES

Pee Wees or shorties typically are under the age of 15. They associate with hard-core members and are often used as lookouts and drug runners. They are used to transport drugs because they will not receive penalties as severe as those given to older gang members.

WANNA BE'S

Wanna be's, or imitators, are young people who are familiar with a specific gang's symbols and imitate gang members through dress and action. They may not be associated with any particular gang, but these individuals can put themselves into potentially dangerous situations if their imitation of a particular gang is observed by rival gang members.

Caution: Many youths eventually become what they "wanna be." This term describes a



The Gang STRUCTURE

stage in the progression of an individual gang member and in no way should be used to minimize the problem.

GIRLS IN GANGS

Wherever there is an active male gang, female counterparts can usually be found. Usually they are girlfriends of gang members. However, over the years girls have become more directly involved in gang activities.

According to the 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment, 39 percent of all youth gangs reported female membership in the early part of this decade. Roughly 6 percent of the nation's gang members are estimated to be female.

Female gang members are involved in a variety of criminal activities, according to the Gang Threat Assessment. They carry drugs and weapons to safe houses; commit batteries and assaults; engage in prostitution; sell drugs; or steal credit cards or financial identities.

GANGS AND TERRORISM

Gang members frequently spend time in jail or prison. In this captive environment, their gang affiliations may aggravate their situations. This is particularly true for those who are incarcerated for the first time. Involvement in a gang may afford an inmate protection. But it also can make him susceptible to attacks from rival gang members.

A prison environment also provides the atmosphere for terrorism recruitment. Anti-government extremists from both domestic and international groups as well as racial and religious hate groups proselytize to inmates inside correctional facilities. The same psychological characteristics that contributed to someone's initial involvement in a street gang may be exploited by recruiters for hate groups and other extremist organizations behind prison walls.

The collusion between street gangs and state-sponsored terrorism was illustrated in the 1980s during the investigation into Chicago's El Rukn gang and representatives of the government of Libya. Several ranking El Rukns were imprisoned for weapons violations and conspiring to commit violent acts in the United States on behalf of representatives of the Libyan government.

As the prison population rises, so do opportunities for extremists to recruit inmates to organizations that engage in terrorism to accomplish their ideological goals.

Groom gunned down in car during year of record-breaking gang violence

George Borunda's wedding day should have been one of the happiest in his life.

But in a tragic turn, the 18-year-old man was gunned down in what police described at the time as a gang-motivated crime.

Borunda was killed on Jackson Street in Joliet on Dec. 5, 1992 during what was then a record-breaking year of gang violence for Will County. Eighty-eight people were wounded in 227 gang-related shootings during 1992. Things would get worse. The following year, the number of gang-related shootings jumped to 296.

Borunda was driving a friend's car to his wedding reception at about 4 p.m. when he was struck in the chest by a bullet. Police considered the crime to be gang-motivated because the car the groom had borrowed on that day belonged to a young man whose brother was a gang member.

In an effort to curb the bloodshed, federal, state and local law enforcement officials would work together on several occasions throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s to arrest gang leaders in massive sweeps and take them off the streets.

The shootings in 1992 and 1993 prompted one of those gang sweeps. One veteran homicide detective, summing up the gang violence at the end of 1992, was quoted in the local newspapers saying: "You get the feeling that life is cheap."



Recognizing **DIFFERENT GANGS**

FACTIONS: THE HISTORY OF PEOPLE AND FOLKS

Historically, street gangs could be broken down into two distinct and opposing factions known as the People and the Folks. As a general rule, all gangs belonging to the People were allied and opposed to all gangs allied with the Folks. These alliances, however, have begun to lose their significance in recent years.

The seeds of these alliances date back to the Chicago street gangs of the 1960s. During that period, the leader of the Black P-Stone Rangers, Jeff Fort, united roughly 50 area street gangs into a single organization called the Black P-Stone Nation.

Other gangs emulated the Black P-Stone Nation. Some developed into sophisticated and highly organized gangs involved in drug trafficking, prostitution, extortion, robbery and burglary. Two of those gangs, the Black Disciples, led by David Barksdale, and the Gangster Disciples, led by Larry Hoover, joined together to form the Black Gangster Disciple Nation.

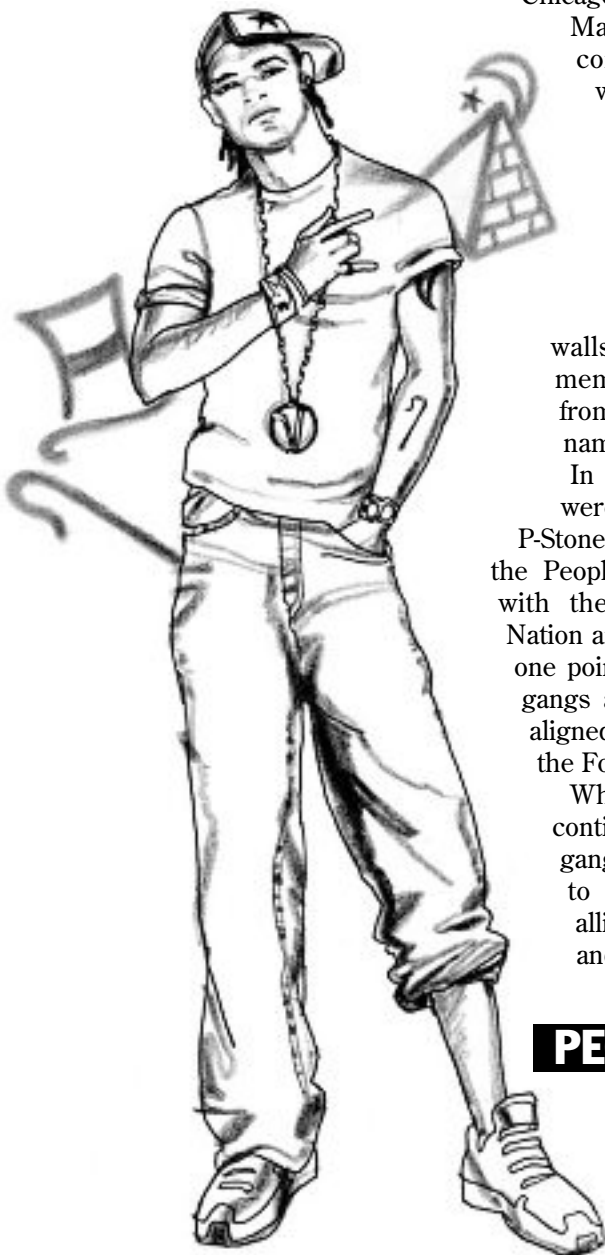
During the 1970s, the Black P-Stone Nation and the Black Gangster Disciples controlled Chicago's drug trade. They also were bitter rivals who engaged in one of the bloodiest gang wars in Chicago's history.

Many leaders and hard-core gang members wound up in federal or state prisons during these gang wars. The People and the Folks alliances emerged in the 1970s and early 1980s behind prison

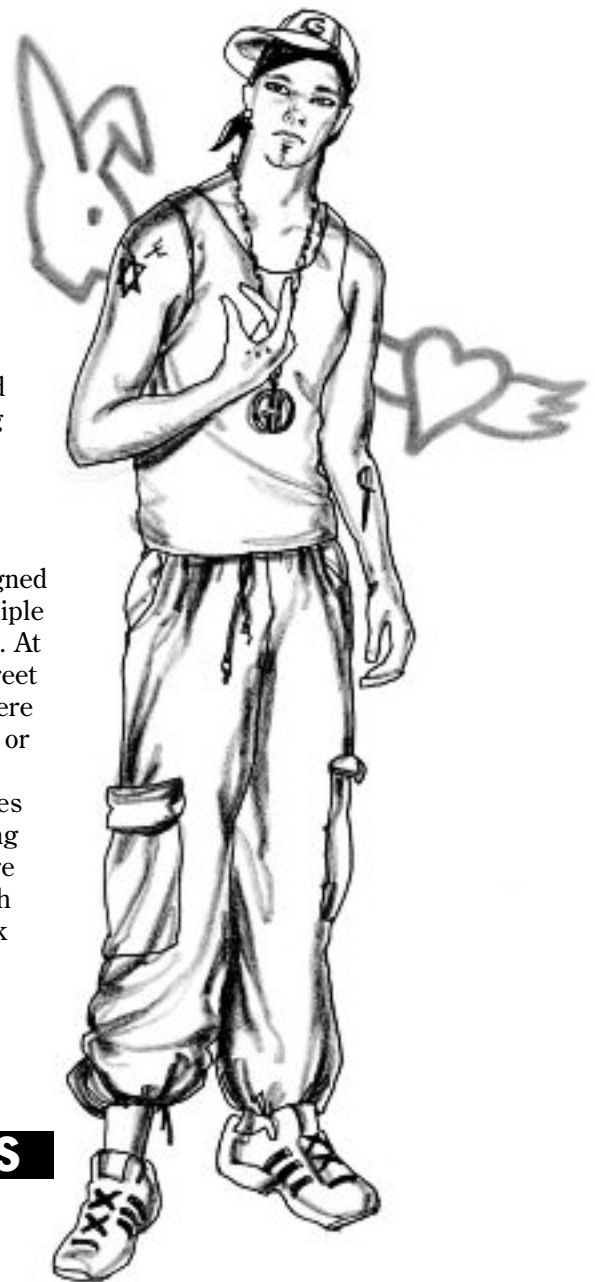
walls, where gang members were prohibited from representing their gang names.

In general, all gangs that were aligned with the Black P-Stone Nation are aligned with the People. Those that were aligned with the Black Gangster Disciple Nation are aligned with the Folks. At one point, virtually all of the street gangs active in Will County were aligned with either the People or the Folks.

Where these alliances continue to exist, participating gang members do not adhere to racial boundaries. Both alliances have white, black and Hispanic members.



PEOPLE



FOLKS

Recognizing **DIFFERENT GANGS**

The following chart illustrates the key differences between the People and the Folks nations:

<u>PEOPLE</u>		<u>FOLKS</u>
All races	Racial Mix	All races
Fragmented	Organization	Fragmented
Left	Side of Body	Right
5 points (one point up)	Star Symbols	6 points (Star of David)
3 or 5 points (points up), or upside down rounded Folk crowns	Crown Symbols	Rounded crown, or upside down 3 or 5 point People crowns
Straight ears	Playboy Bunny	Bent ear on left
Points down, may be crossed out	Pitchfork	Points up, may be cut into eyebrow
Black & gold, black & red, black & purple, black & white, black & orange	Colors	Blue & black, black & white, green & black, canary yellow & black

REPRESENTING

Representing is the way street gang members communicate and display their allegiance. Gangs need and seek recognition, not only from within their own community, but also from rival gangs. A gang's reputation depends on this recognition. The more visible a gang is in a community, the more its reputation is enhanced among its members and its rivals.

Gang members are proud of their gang and often will freely admit their affiliation to peers and police. They also represent by dressing in gang clothes, openly displaying gang tattoos, spraying gang graffiti and making hand gestures that signify their membership. Many members adopt street nicknames that become their gang identity.

LEFT AND RIGHT

Many of the symbols and gestures that today's gangs use to represent have origins in the People and Folks alliances. Basically, gangs affiliated with the People make key gestures with their left hands. Gangs allied with the Folks make gestures with their right hands.

People-affiliated gangs wear their identifiers to the left: an earring in the left ear; the left leg of their pants rolled up; the left strap of their overalls unhooked and dangling; a cap tilted left. Folks-affiliated gangs, on the other hand, all wear their identifiers to the right.



Recognizing **DIFFERENT GANGS**

COLORS

Colors worn by youths also may indicate gang affiliation. Specific colors or color combinations are worn as a means of identification. Any article of clothing worn alone or with another color can be used to signify membership in a gang. Some gang color combinations are:

- **Gangster Disciples: Black and Blue.**
- **Latin Kings: Black and Gold.**
- **Two-Six Nation: Black and Tan.**
- **Vice Lords: Black and Red (also Black and Gold).**
- **Black P-Stone Nation: Black and Red.**
- **Insane Deuces: Black and Green.**
- **La Raza: Red, White and Green**
- **Latin Counts: Black and Red.**
- **Maniac Latin Disciples: Black and Light Blue.**
- **Satan Disciples: Black and Canary Yellow.**
- **Simon City Royals: Blue and Black.**
- **Two-Two Boys: Black and Light Blue.**

SPORTS CLOTHING

Gangs in the 1980s and 1990s wore sports clothing items that displayed their colors and identified members. In recent years, some gangs have gotten away from using sports clothing. In some cases, however, sports clothing can still serve as an identifier.

Not every teen-ager who puts on sports clothing is a gang member. There have been cases in which children have been assaulted, robbed or shot for the sports apparel they were wearing. The victim could be a child who is in the wrong place, at the wrong time and wearing the wrong clothes. The child may not be a gang member, but can be mistaken for one because of the clothes he is wearing. Parents need to consider if giving their child sports clothing is worth putting his or her safety in jeopardy.

Parents also should seriously consider their child's motivation if he expresses a desire for sports clothing. Some questions to ask:

- **Is your child really a sports fan?**
- **Does your child have a legitimate interest in the team when he or she asks to wear their jackets or shirts?**
- **Can your child name some team members without hesitation? If he or she cannot name players, then it may be only the colors that interest the youth.**
- **Do your children's friends have a similar interest in the same team? Are they all wearing the same team clothing on a regular basis?**

GRAFFITI

Graffiti is the first indicator of gang presence in a neighborhood. Gang members use graffiti to mark territory, claim responsibility for violent acts, disrespect or challenge rivals and show allegiance. Members of the public often mistake graffiti for thoughtless vandalism or childish pranks.

Gang graffiti proclaims to the world the status of the gang. The markings reduce property values and stigmatize communities. Allowing these markings to remain on property exacerbates the problem, resulting in a proliferation of this form of gang representation. It is imperative to report all graffiti to your local law enforcement agency for quick removal.

PEOPLE



FOLKS



Recognizing **DIFFERENT GANGS**

Certain basic elements are found in gang graffiti. The main body of the writing will usually contain the gang's name or logo and the nickname or street name of the writer. Graffiti also frequently contains assertions of the gang's strength.

In most instances, gangs allied with the People use the five-point star in their graffiti. The term "high-five, six must die" is in reference to their five pointed star versus the six pointed star of gangs allied with the Folks.

The six-point Star of David, a Jewish religious symbol, is used by gangs allied with the Folks. Variations of the symbol with and without pitchforks running through it in an upward fashion represent gangs allied with the Folks. Gangs allied with the People use graffiti with the pitchfork pointed down as a sign of disrespect.

ARM/HAND GESTURES

Gangs also use arm and hand signs to communicate with each other, either to show allegiance to their group or opposition to a rival.

These hand gestures differ from graffiti as a means of representing. Graffiti, while often a challenge to rivals, is painted at night by unseen gang members. "Flashing" or "tossing" gang signs is a face-to-face challenge. Violent confrontations often are ignited when these gang signs are flashed.



TATTOOS

Gangs use tattoos as a means of communication and identification. Many gang members tattoo themselves with their street name and gang affiliation. These tattoos are usually visible on arms or hands. Some tattoos are so large that they cover the entire back or stomach. The wearing of a gang tattoo increases the probability that the wearer is a gang member.

In the "Gang Identifiers" section of this book, you will see tattoos that are associated with specific gangs. Note that gangs change and so do their symbols, so view the information as a general guideline rather than a rule.



GANG TERRITORIES

Gangs will claim territories or turfs as their own. These turfs will be marked with graffiti containing the gang's name and symbols. Generally speaking, gang members claim property in their neighborhood and the immediate vicinity in which they members reside.



Recognizing **DIFFERENT GANGS**

WILL COUNTY GANGS

The major street gangs currently active in Will County are:

■ **Gangster Disciples**

Also known as: Young Voters of Illinois, Inc.; Black Disciples; Sons & Daughters of the Divine Temple of Universal Star, Inc.; Brothers of Struggle.

■ **Latin Kings**

■ **Two-Six Nation**

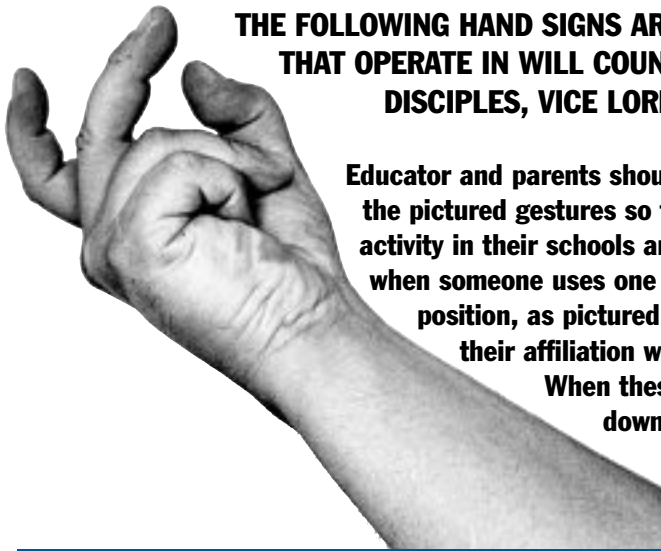
■ **Vice Lords**

Also known as: Conservative Vice Lords; Insane Conservative Vice Lords; Unknown Vice Lords; 4 Corner Hustlers; Imperial Insane Vice Lords.

SIGNS OF VIOLENCE

THE FOLLOWING HAND SIGNS ARE USED BY THE FOUR MAJOR GANGS THAT OPERATE IN WILL COUNTY: THE LATIN KINGS, GANGSTER DISCIPLES, VICE LORDS AND TWO-SIX NATION.

Educator and parents should familiarize themselves with the pictured gestures so they recognize signs of gang activity in their schools and neighborhoods. Generally, when someone uses one of these signs in an upright position, as pictured here, they are demonstrating their affiliation with and/or respect for a gang. When these gestures are made upside down or toward the ground, it is a sign of disrespect. Violence is likely to follow.



GANGSTER DISCIPLES



LATIN KINGS



TWO-SIX NATION



VICE LORDS

Recognizing **DIFFERENT GANGS**

GANG IDENTIFIERS

GANGSTER DISCIPLES

Nation: Folks

Colors: Black and Blue

Local Associates: 2-6RS (Two-Sixers)

Symbols (Graffiti and Tattoos):

- Star of David (6-point);
- B.G.D.N. (Black Gangster Disciple Nation);
- B.G.D. (Black Gangster Disciple);
- G.D. (Gangster Disciple);
- D (Disciples);
- D LOVE;
- K.H. (King Hoover, leader);
- Pitch forks (sometimes crossed);
- K.D. (King David, founder);
- 74;
- Folks;
- Heart with wings;
- Crown, flames, horns, devils tails.

Clothing:

- Accented to the right;
- Hats tilted right;
- Gang colored shoes/shoelaces (black and blue);
- Gang colored inside pocket (black and blue);
- Blue Civil War hat;
- Gang colored clothing (black and blue);
- Right pant leg pulled up.

Jewelry:

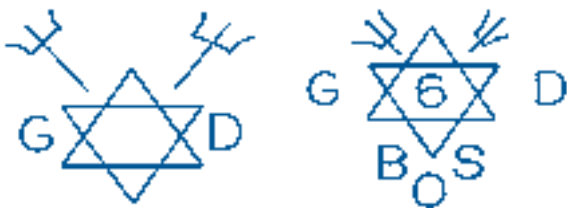
- 6-point star pendants, necklaces, rings, belt buckles, bracelets, earrings;
- Capital letter "G" or "D" in jewelry items;
- Earrings worn in right ear only.

Haircuts:

- 6-point stars, "G" or "D" cut into hair.

Hand signs/Signals:

- Arms crossed over chest, with left arm over right, right arm closest to the chest;
- Two fingers over heart (rival gangs will show only one finger over heart);
- Fingers displayed in an attempt to form a "D" or bending the index, middle and ring fingers of each hand to form a pitchfork.



Recognizing **DIFFERENT GANGS**

LATIN KINGS

Nation: People

Colors: Black and Gold

Local Associates: Vice Lords

Symbols:

Amor de Rey;

5-point crown with letters "L" and "K" (Coronet);

3-point crown with letter "L" and "K" (Imperial);

L.K.;

L.K.N.;

People;

King Love;

A.L.K.N. (Almighty Latin King Nation).

Jewelry:

5-point crown;

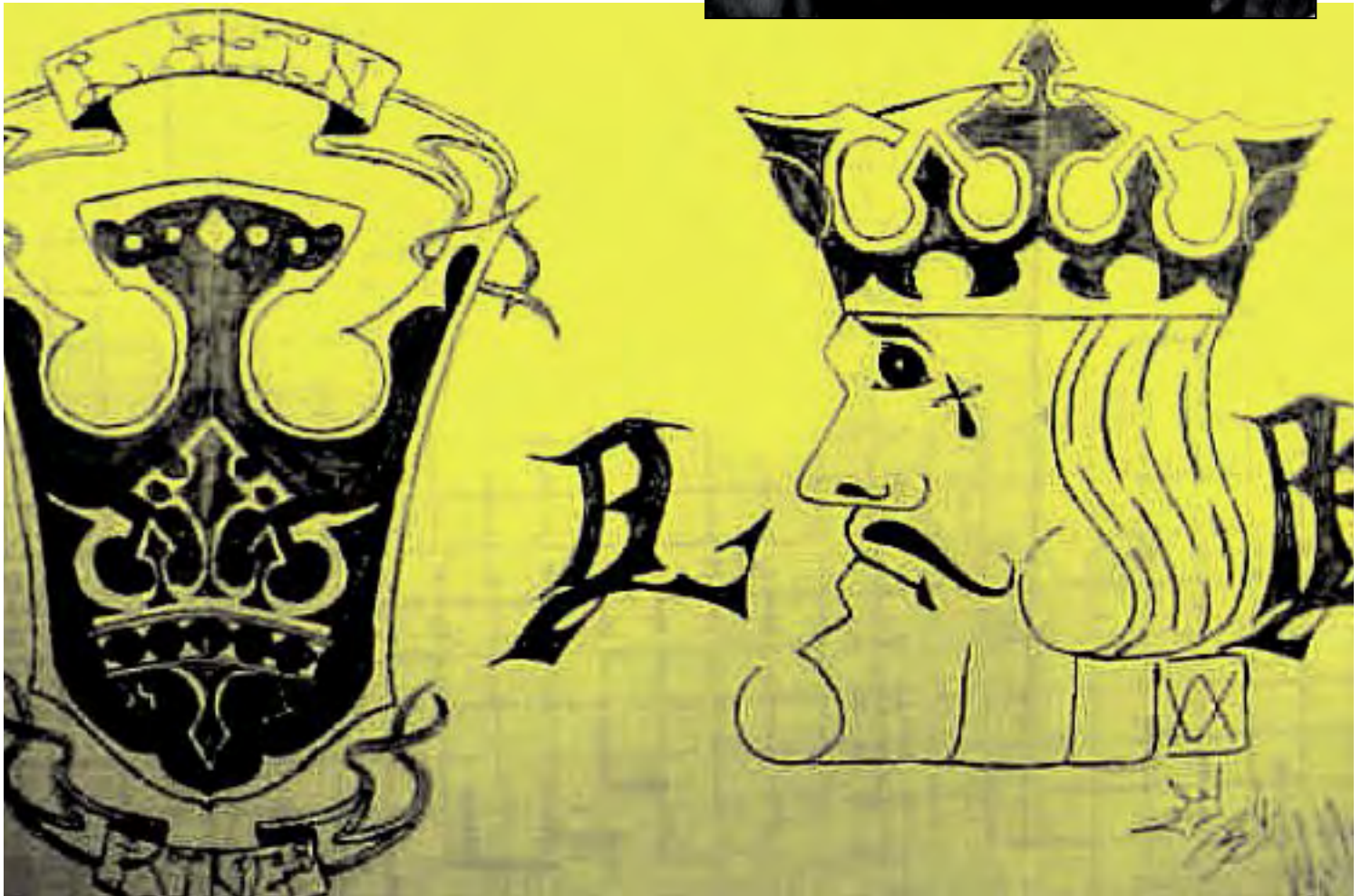
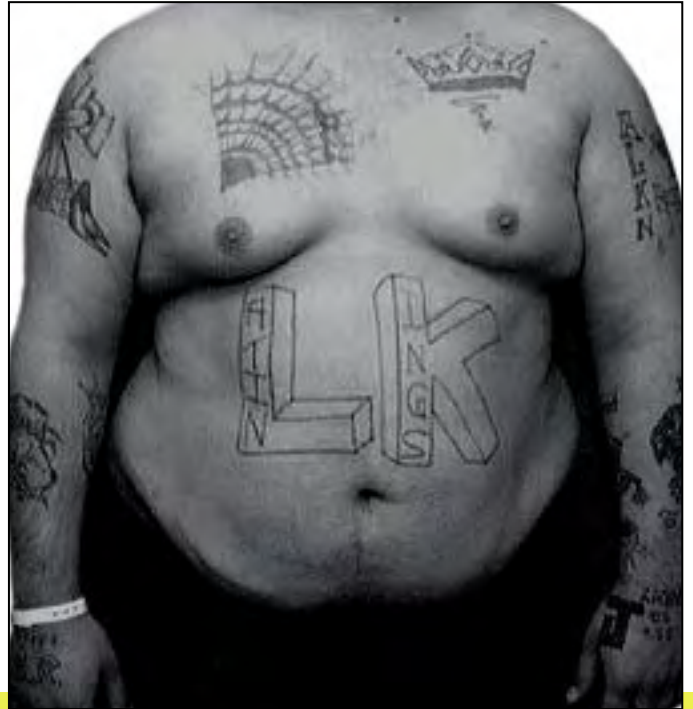
3-point crown;

Claddagh ring (ring with a crown);

Earring in left ear only.

Hand Signs/Signals:

Thumb, index and little
finger extended.



Recognizing DIFFERENT GANGS

TWO-SIX NATION

Nation: Folks

Gang Colors: Black and Tan

Local Associates: Black Gangster Disciples, Latin Locos

Symbols:

- 2-6;
- T.S.N;
- Dice with 2 and 6 showing;
- King Killers;
- “ . . . ” (Three dots), “meaning money, mack, murder”;
- 2 T 6;
- Rabbit head with bent ear and eye patch;
- 6-point star.

Clothing:

- Accented to the right;
- Hats/caps tilted to the right;
- Right pant leg pulled up;
- Gang colored shoes/shoelaces (black and tan);
- Gang colored inside pockets (black and tan);
- Black and yellow football jersey with number 26 on it;
- Glove on right hand only;
- Gang colored clothing (black and tan).

Jewelry:

- Earring in right ear;
- Playboy bunny with bent ear;
- 6-point star pendants, necklaces, rings, belt buckles, bracelets, earrings, etc.



The upside-down, backwards and broken symbols in the graffiti above are signs of disrespect for rival gangs.



Recognizing **DIFFERENT GANGS**

VICE LORDS

Nation: People

Colors: Black and Red locally, also Black and Gold

Local Associates: Latin Kings, Spanish Vice Lords

Symbols:

- 5-point star;
- Top hat, can, and gloves;
- Playboy bunny with straight ears;
- Martini glass;
- Pyramid with a top hat;
- 360-degree circle surrounded by fire and two half crescent moons;
- Dollar sign (\$);
- Dice with numbers 7 or 11;
- Lords;
- V.L.N.;
- Word "LORD" preceding a name;
- Words "Mom" and "Love";

Clothing:

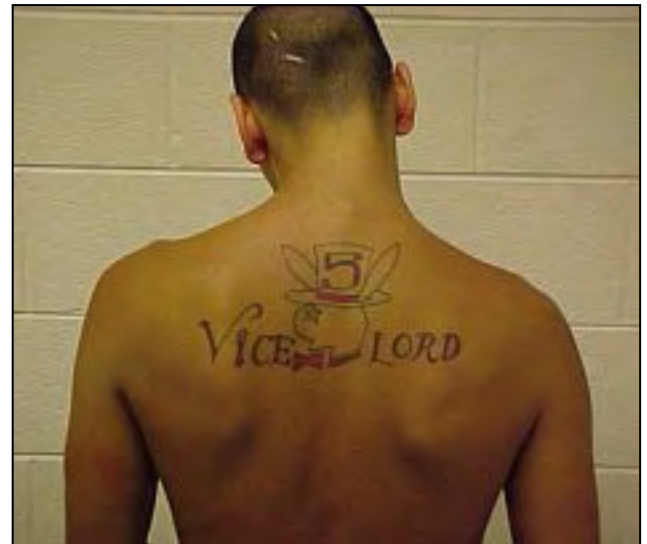
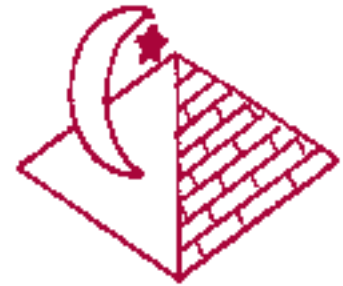
- Accented to the left;
- Hats/caps tilted to the left;
- Left pant leg rolled up;
- Gang colored shoes/shoelaces (black and gold or black and red);
- Gang colored inside pocket (black and gold or black and red);
- Glove on left hand only;
- Gray Civil War hat;
- Gang colored clothing (black and red or black and gold);
- Pittsburgh Pirate baseball cap (black with yellow lines).

Jewelry:

- 5-point star pendants, necklaces, rings, belt buckles, bracelets, earrings, etc;
- Capital letter V or VL in jewelry items;
- Earrings in left ear;
- Playboy bunny with straight ears.

Hand Signs/Signals:

- Arms crossed (right arm over left) with left arm held closest to the chest/heart;
- One finger over the heart shows respect and loyalty; rivals use two fingers to signify their own gang;
- Thumb, index and middle finger extended to represent V and L.



Recognizing **DIFFERENT GANGS**

OTHER GANGS KNOWN TO OPERATE IN WILL COUNTY ARE:

- Black P-Stone Nation
- 2-2 Boys
- Ambrose
- Latin Counts
- Satan Disciples
- Insane Deuces
- Maniac Latin Disciples
- Crips (California-based gang now present in Will County)
- Latin Locos (Split from 2-6 gang)
- Chicano Cholos
- Simon City Royals
- La Raza



OTHER AREA GANG NAMES:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ■ Westside Squad | ■ BOC (Bitches Out Of Control) |
| ■ SOC (Shorties Out Of Control) | ■ CPL (College Park Ladiez) |
| ■ Grover Street Gangsters | ■ HB (Hot Boys) |
| ■ One Nation | ■ HB (Home Boys) |
| ■ College Park Mafia | ■ STO (Shorties Taking Over) |
| ■ P-Road Gangsters | ■ ISA (Insane Soul Assassin) |
| ■ Hill Squad | ■ Straight East |
| ■ LOC (Ladies Out Of Control) | ■ YCK (Young Crazy Killers) |



Recognizing **DIFFERENT GANGS**

LA RAZA

Nation: No affiliation

Colors: Red, White and Green.

Symbols:

Mexican Flag; Eagles Head;

Cross; 6-Pointed Star.



MANIAC LATIN DISCIPLES

Nation: Folks

Colors: Black and Light Blue

Clothing: Accent to right

Symbols:

Monk with pitchfork;

Heart with horns and tail;

Swastika.



Recognizing **DIFFERENT GANGS**

SATAN DISCIPLES

Nation: Folks

Colors: Black and Canary Yellow

Clothing: Accent to the right.

Symbols:

6-point star;

Little devil;

Pitchfork;

Heart with wings;

Shield.



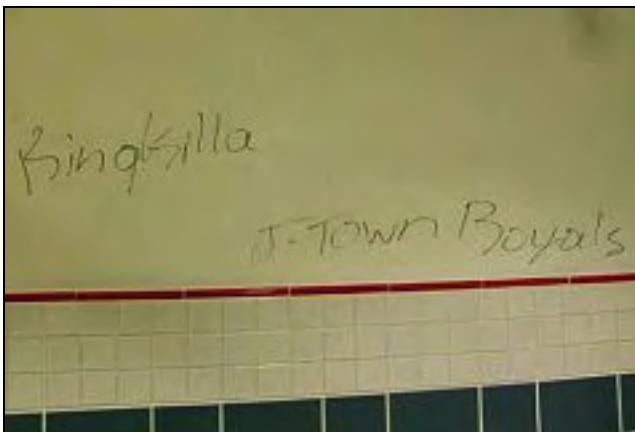
SIMON CITY ROYALS

Nation: Folks

Colors: Blue and Black

Symbols:

Rabbit head with
crossed shotguns;
SCR.



Recognizing **DIFFERENT GANGS**

TWO-TWO BOYS

Nation: Folks

Colors: Black, Light Blue; Beige and Brown

Clothing: Accent to right.

Symbols:

Shield with a four point crown, two lines with a dot above each.



Recognizing **DIFFERENT GANGS**

TAGGERS

Taggers are not affiliated with gangs. They typically involve small groups of young people who consider graffiti to be an art form and blank walls to be their canvass. Taggers' vandalism, however, lowers property values and can be mistaken for gang graffiti. Known tagging groups include:

- FSB** (Free Style Bombers)
- AIDS** (Aerosol in Destroying Society)
- TAC** (The Aerosol Children)
- REAL** (Reality Entering Artist's Lives)
- JPD** (Joliet's Phenomenal Defacements)
- 365** (WE Party 365 Days)
- FUK** (F—K Other Crews)
- LSB** (Low Salary Bastards)



HATE GROUPS

Teachers and community leaders should be able to identify hate symbols to help prevent the growth of hate groups in the neighborhood. Knowing these racist and anti-Semitic symbols could prevent incidents of violence from occurring.



The costs of GANG INVOLVEMENT

There is no upside to gang involvement. All of the consequences are negative for the gang member, his or her family and the community. Consider the following costs:

- The constant threat of violent and potentially deadly conflict with rival gangs.
- Drug abuse that results in addiction.
- Required commission of crimes – many of them violent.
- The likelihood of arrest and lengthy prison terms.
- Threats of retaliation and intimidation against family members.
- Difficulty in getting out of the gang.
- Potential for serious injury or death.

THE THREAT TO FAMILIES

The decision to join a gang or associate with gang members can have disastrous consequences for a youth's family members. Hanging around with gang members increases a young person's exposure to drugs, alcohol, weapons and violence. Even worse, younger brothers and sisters as well as parents are more likely to be touched by the violence and crime that is commonly associated with gang activity.

Parents, family members and friends of gang members are likely to find themselves dealing with the following:

- Fear for their own safety, particularly those of younger siblings.
- The death or serious injury of a family member who doesn't associate with gangs.
- The death or serious injury of a loved one who belongs to a gang.
- Damage to personal property resulting from graffiti, vandalism or arson.
- Financial liability for damage caused by their children.
- Hospital bills or funeral expenses resulting from gang violence or drug abuse.

Gang members are constantly in and out of jail or prison. Gang members can become burdens on their families when they can't get jobs or when they become disabled as the result of gang violence.

THE COSTS OF YOUTH VIOLENCE

Here are some interesting recent statistics from the Center for Disease Control:

- In 2003, an average of 15 young people (age 10 to 24) each day were murdered. Roughly 82 percent of those victims were killed by firearms.
- In 2004, more than 750,000 young people in the same age group were treated in emergency rooms for injuries sustained due to violence.
- Direct and indirect costs for youth violence exceeds \$158 billion annually. This includes medical costs and lost productivity.



The costs of GANG INVOLVEMENT

IMPORTANT THINGS FOR PARENTS TO KNOW

Parents might ask the following questions about how gangs will affect their families and communities:

What will happen to my relationship with my child if he or she joins a gang?

A hard-core gang member will allow his ties to the gang to become stronger than his or her ties to family, church, school or community. You will lose the ability to influence your child and direct him or her toward positive activities.

My child is still in grade school. Is he or she too young to be involved in a gang?

No. You must be vigilant, even with grade-school children. Gang members can be as young as 10-years-old. Later in this book, we will examine gang membership and gang structures.

My child swears he does not belong to a gang, but I've spotted some red flags. What should I do?

Seek police help in identifying whether your child is involved in a street gang. Read Chapter 4 of this book for information on gang identifiers. Be firm and do not tolerate further fraternization with gang members once such associations are discovered.

We don't have gangs in our neighborhood, so they do not really affect my family, right?

Wrong. Street gangs currently may not be in your neighborhood, but they may be soon. Today's street gangs are highly mobile. They have a negative impact on an entire community, not just your block or neighborhood. Although there may be few signs of street gang activity in your neighborhood, they can still have an impact on property values, local schools, the criminal justice system and the business community.

As a citizen and a parent, what can I do?

There are many things you can do. Be informed. Get involved. Organize a neighborhood group. Become involved in your child's education. Attend PTA meetings. Discuss gang activity in your community. Encourage your child's school to implement a character education program. Invite your local police department or the Will County State's Attorney's Office to assist you in your efforts. Neighborhoods that show no unified resistance to gang presence become targets for more advanced criminal activity, increased violence, and greater fear and intimidation.

Where can I go for help?

Chapter 7 in this book provides information on several educational programs and community organizations that will help you keep gangs out of your neighborhood and help your children resist gang pressures. Know what programs are available. Make a call.



Red flags and **WARNING SIGNS**

WHY DO YOUTHS JOIN GANGS?

In many ways, street gangs are a manifestation of the social ills that plague today's youths. Gangs are largely populated by young people from disenfranchised neighborhoods plagued by high unemployment and drop-out rates and lacking in social or recreational services. But socially isolated youths living in more comfortable suburban neighborhoods also can gravitate toward gangs.

Youths join street gangs for many reasons. They may be seeking an increase in status or a boost to their self-esteem. A gang may provide them with a sense of identity.

Experts say young people from troubled homes try to find substitute families in street gangs. Child abuse and neglect are common themes among gang members.

The bottom line is that when the emotional needs of our young people are not satisfied in meaningful ways at home, in the community or in school, they become susceptible to gang recruitment pressures. And once a youth becomes involved in a gang, he or she may find the financial benefits from drug dealing or other criminal activities to be a strong incentive for continued and deeper involvement.

Below is a list of reasons why youths join gangs:

- **Peer pressure, a desire to belong.**
- **Hopelessness.**
- **Poverty.**
- **Protection from other gang members.**
- **The absence of productive community activities.**
- **Too much unstructured, non-supervised time.**
- **The lure of profit from drug dealing.**
- **A family tradition of gang membership.**
- **A desire to emulate older kids.**
- **A lack of parental interest and support.**
- **The failure by parents to stress religious or community values.**
- **The absence of someone to model a strong work ethic.**
- **An inability to achieve success in school, sports or work.**

In many cases, parents do not discourage their children from hanging around with gang members. They might not realize their children belong to a street gang. But parents who ignore or fail to recognize the signs of gang involvement risk losing an important connection to their children. A gang eventually will come to fulfill their teen-ager's socialization needs. Gang members often refer to their gang as "the family."



Red Flags and **WARNING SIGNS**

WARNING SIGNS IN YOUNG CHILDREN

A child's affiliation with a gang does not occur overnight. Children in elementary school may show signs they will be inclined to join a gang. A young child may be headed toward gang involvement if he or she:

- **Demonstrates a lack of academic achievement in school.**
- **Is disciplined repeatedly for behavioral problems at school.**
- **Fails to attend classes or is chronically absent.**
- **Lacks productive hobbies to occupy his or her free time.**
- **Has negative contact with the police.**
- **Draws gang graffiti.**
- **Draws tattoos on his or her body.**
- **Has older siblings who are in a gang or friends whose older siblings are in gangs.**
- **Has friends who dress in gang attire.**
- **Expresses a desire to dress in gang clothes such as baggy pants, oversize T-shirts, bandannas, etc.**
- **Resides in a neighborhood where gangs are active.**

It is important to note that some children who associate with gangs may not show any of these early-warning signs. Parents should talk with their children and monitor their activities to prevent them from joining a gang.

WARNING SIGNS IN TEEN-AGERS

Parents and educators must watch for signs that a teen-ager is



Red Flags and WARNING SIGNS

involved with a street gang. If warning signs are identified early, adults stand a better chance of directing their teen-agers away from gang life and toward more positive activities. Watch for these indicators of gang involvement:

- Association with a new set of friends while ignoring old friends. The youth will not talk about these new friends, who they are, or what they do together.
- A change of hair and/or clothing styles.
- Hanging around with youths who have the same hair or clothing styles. Usually some of the clothing, typically a hat or jacket, will have a gang's colors, symbols, initials and/or the youth's street name on it. (See Chapter 4 for gang identifiers)
- An unexplained increase in the amount of spending money.
- The possession of expensive items, such as jewelry or stereo equipment, that the youth otherwise could not afford.
- Indications of drug or alcohol abuse.
- A change in attitude about activities the youth previously enjoyed, such as sports, scouting, or church.
- Discipline problems at school, in public, or at home.
- Failing grades and truancy.
- Frequent challenges to parental authority.
- Writing or doodling in gang script and symbols. Check your child's personal letters and school notebooks.
- Displays of disrespect or hatred toward police.
- Signs of fighting – cuts, bruises or complaints of pain – that the youth refuses to explain.
- Graffiti on or around the youth's residence.
- Family members are suddenly threatened by rival gang members.
- A change in vocabulary.
- The presence of weapons, marijuana or other narcotics.
- Hidden tattoos on his or her body, including tattoos that are formed by burns.
- A desire to wear jewelry or pierce his ears.
- Wearing the same color clothing day in and day out.

As a parent or guardian, you have the right to ensure your family's safety. You may wish to search your child's room or vehicle for weapons or drugs. This is not a violation of your child's privacy. It is an act that may protect your child and the rest of your family.



Prevention STRATEGIES

HOW DO WE ADDRESS THE GANG PROBLEM?

It is of the greatest importance that public agencies and private citizens, whether individually or through citizen groups, share information to combat the gang problem. Efforts must involve community-wide participation to develop a strategy that balances education, prevention, enforcement and intervention techniques.

ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement efforts involve various suppression strategies throughout the criminal justice system. Local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors have taken a zero-tolerance approach when dealing with street gangs and drug-related offenders. Arrests and convictions send a clear message that this illegal activity will have serious legal consequences. Many local gangs have been disrupted due to strong suppression efforts by police departments and prosecutors.

Law enforcement efforts also have involved officers taking leadership roles within their communities. Community-oriented policing brings local residents together with private and public agencies to solve problems involving gangs and other criminal activity.

INTERVENTION

Intervention strategies aimed at suppressing street gang activity involve participation from police, schools, parents, the private sector and public agencies. These strategies deter youths from associating with gangs. Once early warning signs of gang involvement become evident, immediate intervention and counseling are necessary. Effective programs must be available regardless of income or social status.

Numerous agencies and programs provide early intervention services to parents, youths and educators. A number of these programs and services are listed later in this chapter.



Prevention STRATEGIES

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

As a parent, you may not be aware your children are involved in gangs. And if they are not involved, you may be surprised to find out how much they are aware of gang activity in your community.

Parents must guide and counsel their children in choosing the right paths in life to achieve legitimate success. Young people often are willing to discuss sensitive issues such as gangs, drugs, AIDS, and sex among their peers. An involved and caring parent can help them understand the dangers of associating with gangs, engaging in sexual activity and using drugs.

Young people must understand the importance of reporting peers who try to intimidate them into joining a gang or pressure them into using or dealing drugs. They must be willing to assist friends who succumb to gang pressures when their friends' parents are unable or unwilling to intervene.

Here are steps parents can take to keep their children safe:

MEET YOUR CHILDREN'S FRIENDS

Get to know the youths who hang around with your teen-ager. You will quickly learn the character of your children's friends. This will help you steer them away from bad influences. Open your house to visits from friends. Be concerned if your child is reluctant to bring a friend home. Talk with your son or daughter about why he or she doesn't want you to meet a particular friend. Be firm about the kind of friends with whom your child may socialize. Get to know their friends' parents.

KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILD IS AT ALL TIMES AND ENFORCE CURFEWS

Know where your child is going and who he or she will meet. Set a reasonable time for your child to return home and enforce that curfew. Do not allow your children to stay out late without trustworthy adult supervision. If possible, provide money for your child to participate in acceptable activities with others. This prevents your child from being embarrassed because he or she cannot afford to buy something or participate.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS OR OTHER ACTIVITIES

Children need to belong and want to be a part of a group. Let them join Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or a sports team. Support their outside interests, including church activities and hobbies. These activities build self-esteem and give your child a sense of belonging to something worthwhile.



Prevention STRATEGIES

SUPPORT OR START A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Support local crime prevention organizations like Neighborhood Watch. Support your local police. Take their warnings about crime in your neighborhood seriously.

TAKE A STRONG STAND AGAINST GANGS

Have a zero-tolerance policy regarding gang involvement in your home. Do not tolerate gang memorabilia, graffiti, doodling or clothing in your house. Do not tolerate abusive neighbors who blame police for their children's problems and deny their children's involvement in gangs.

WHAT CAN SCHOOLS DO?

History has shown that prosecution and incarceration are not the only solutions to the gang problem.

Effective school prevention strategies inform parents about the dangers their children face if they become involved with gangs and drugs. Educators must work with parents and police to address the gang problem for the safety of their students and the community.

Young people today face increasing peer and economic pressures. These stresses are magnified for youths who are grappling with dysfunctional families and indifferent parents who fail to provide appropriate guidance and control. As a result, many teenagers are making adult decisions that carry adult consequences before they have the necessary education and life skills.

Street gangs exert an influence on school-age youths. Parents, teachers, youth group leaders and law enforcement officials must work together to provide positive influences for socially developing and impressionable young people. Programs within our schools must steer students away from gangs while encouraging a positive self image. Parents must reinforce these school programs at home and involve themselves in their children's educations and social activities.

Educators at every level should be trained to recognize gang activity and gang affiliations in their schools. They must learn how to identify students who are susceptible to gang influence, and they must warn parents. Schools must develop and enforce appropriately forceful policies prohibiting gang activity.

Educators can help identify gang members or those students at risk by:

- **Monitoring known gang members.**
- **Monitoring associates who are commonly seen with known gang members.**
- **Discouraging students from joining a gang, particularly those pupils who are susceptible to gang pressures.**
- **Recognizing graffiti that students write on books, folders, lockers or clothing.**
- **Recognizing gang tattoos on students.**
- **Recognizing gang jewelry.**
- **Recognizing gang hand signals.**

SCHOOL DRESS CODES

Adopting a dress code is an excellent way to discourage gang activity in our local schools. Children wearing uniforms already are conforming their conduct to the school code as they walk through the doors. This helps educators create an environment that is conducive to learning and adherence to authority. A dress code not only eliminates any gang attire, but dramatically decreases the likelihood of the bullying and ridicule that can result when students don't adhere to the demands of the current fashion. Several local school districts, including the Laraway School District and the Fairmont School District, have adopted dress codes and have realized the benefits.



Prevention STRATEGIES

INTERVENTION, PREVENTION, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Many schools, neighborhood groups, civic organizations and social service agencies offer activities and programs for youths that can address and possibly prevent at-risk behaviors that could lead to gang involvement. The following programs currently exist in many Will County schools, or they are available through local police departments and other community outlets. This list is a compilation of many known programs, but please do not consider it to be all-inclusive.

WILL COUNTY COALITION FOR CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Many people feel that today's society deemphasizes certain basic character values that form the cornerstones of human decency and good citizenship. Losing focus on these character traits contributes to juvenile delinquency and gang activity.

In response, the Illinois General Assembly has determined that Character Education must be a component of public school curriculum. The belief is that teaching young people these core values will encourage them to make positive choices in life and steer them away from gangs, illegal drugs and other criminal activity.

Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow has been a proponent of Character Education since the 1990s, when he developed CEASE-FIRE. The program was made up of public servants who felt Character Education was a way to battle crime by fostering positive attitudes and self-respect in young people.

"Children who grow up in a traditional loving family atmosphere will usually acquire this sense of respect in the normal course of development," the state's attorney wrote in a 1995 letter. "But in today's changed society, even in the most affluent areas, many children are not blessed with the luxury of growing in a nurturing environment, but instead are influenced by the worst elements of drugs, street gang violence and career criminals as role models."

In the 1990s, CEASE-FIRE received critical backing from local school superintendents as well as former Lockport Mayor Richard Dystrup, who said at the time, "All our kids need is a fighting chance and that is what Character Education gives them."

The Will County Coalition for Character Development is an offshoot of CEASE-FIRE. The coalition was developed in 2005 with the support from Glasgow, Will County Executive Larry Walsh and a host of police departments, school districts, institutions of higher education, park districts and other community organizations.

The coalition's goal is to foster the Six Pillars of Character – Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship – in every facet of society: in our schools and churches; in our parks and civic organizations; in local government and the business community; on the sports fields and in our homes.

The Six Pillars of Character are included in the national Character Counts! initiative, which has been embraced by schools, communities, public agencies and nonprofits across the country. One of the Character Counts! mottos is: "Character education must be school-based and community-embraced."

The coalition involves local police departments, government agencies and schools. Members meet monthly under the direction of State's Attorney Glasgow and the University of St. Francis. Meetings are open to those interested in learning about implementing character development programs in their schools or communities. For more information, call (815) 727-8742.



Prevention STRATEGIES

D.A.R.E (DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION)

Learning to say “no” and not feel compelled to go along with the crowd is the essence of the anti-drug program D.A.R.E. Through this prevention program, police officers in uniform teach 5th graders to resist pressures to experiment with and use illegal and harmful drugs.

D.A.R.E. teaches students that being grown-up means making your own decisions and learning to cope with life’s problems in positive ways. The trained D.A.R.E. officer:

- Provides accurate information about alcohol and drugs.
- Teaches students decision-making skills.
- Shows students how to resist peer pressure.
- Gives students ideas for alternatives to drug use.

D.A.R.E. instructors employ a variety of activity-oriented techniques to involve students in group discussions, a healthy exchange of ideas and role-playing exercises. Parents, teachers and school administrators also benefit through special workshops that teach them to recognize signs of substance abuse and instruct them on effective ways to intervene. For more information, contact your local police department. (See listings, Chapter 8)

G.R.E.A.T (GANG RESISTANCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING)

G.R.E.A.T. is an educational program that was designed by police officers and educators in Phoenix in 1991 to end gang violence across the nation. It is taught by trained police officers and targets 7th and 8th graders.

G.R.E.A.T uses reality-based exercises that allow students to discover for themselves the deadly ramifications of gang violence. The curriculum includes optional extended activities that enable students to apply these lessons to real life situations.

The program has been successful. Teachers and officers have reported that several at-risk students have sought help in getting out of gangs after receiving this training. Educators have noticed that some students adopted better attitudes toward school and began receiving higher grades. Fewer acts of vandalism also have been reported in some communities where G.R.E.A.T is being taught. For more information, contact your local police department. (See listings, Chapter 8)

C.H.A.M.P.S. (CHANNAHON, MINOOKA, PLAINFIELD, SHOREWOOD)

C.H.A.M.P.S. is a youth leadership task force created by a variety of government agencies and civic organizations in Channahon, Minooka, Plainfield and Shorewood. The task force also develops programs that seek to deter young people from joining gangs. These programs highlight the positive rewards for youths who stay away from gangs and the harsh penalties for those who join. C.H.A.M.P.S has adopted a zero-tolerance policy for gang activity in the community. For information, contact your local police department. (See listings, Chapter 8)

PARENT NOTIFICATION LETTER

Many local police departments use the Parent Notification Letter as an early warning for parents whose children are suspected of being involved with gangs. The Parent Notification Letter informs parents whose children have met certain criteria that sug-



Prevention STRATEGIES

gest gang association or membership. Officers present these letters to parents and offer early intervention counseling. The officers also notify parents of other available assistance and of their responsibilities for their children's activities.

GRAFFITI REMOVAL

When graffiti appears on a home or business, the key to discouraging future activity is quick removal. Citizens can remove graffiti themselves, or better yet, contact their city, village, township or county offices for graffiti documentation and removal services. Note: Before removal, be sure to report all graffiti to local law enforcement.

YESS!/GAIN

Youth Experiencing Success in School (YESS!) is a Safe Schools/Healthy Students Federal Grant awarded to Joliet Township High School District. The YESS! model focuses on prevention efforts and helps students avoid violence while providing mental health support and life skills training. The Gang Avoidance Initiative Now (GAIN) is a YESS! program that fosters positive relationships through activities and field trips that make a difference in the lives of youths who are at risk of joining a gang.

OTHER PROGRAMS, SERVICES:

AUNT MARTHA'S YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

Aunt Martha's offers comprehensive community-based services for youth and families, including child welfare, counseling, crisis intervention, delinquency intervention, parenting skills and support for runaway youth. Location: 409 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet. (815) 768-8750.

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF WILL & GRUNDY COUNTIES

Big Brothers/Big Sisters coordinates community volunteers who provide guidance, friendship and educational support on a one-to-one basis to at-risk children. Location: 2322 Plainfield Road, Joliet. (815) 725-4324. <http://www.bbbswillgrundy.org>.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Boys and Girls Club serves boys and girls ages 8 through 18. Programs provide for the social, emotional, educational, health, and character development of its members. Location: 226 E. Clinton Street, Joliet. (815) 723-3434.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA RAINBOW COUNCIL

The Boy Scouts provide youth development programs for over 7,500 boys and girls from Will County. Location: 2600 N. Winterbottom Road, Morris. (815) 942-4450.

CAMP FIRE USA ILLINOIS PRAIRIE COUNCIL

Camp Fire builds caring, confident youths and future leaders through a variety of youth development programs including in-school programs and after-school clubs, camping and community empowerment programs. Location: 1235 S. Highland Avenue, Suite A. Lombard. (630) 629-5160.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN WILL COUNTY

The council provides family and individual clinical counseling, housing counseling (foreclosure or eviction), anger management and domestic violence group sessions and DUI evaluations. Fees are based on a sliding scale. Location: 719 Parkwood Avenue, Romeoville. (815) 886-5000.

CRISIS LINE OF WILL COUNTY

24-Hour Hotline: (815) 722-3344. Administration: (815) 744-5280. 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Comprehensive suicide prevention hotline, information, referral, telephone counseling and Sunshine calls. Services are available for the hearing impaired.

FOREST PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

The community center offers a number of after-school programs that provide a safe, stimulating environment for low-income and middle-income youths. Location: 1017 Woodruff Road, Joliet. (815) 727-7898.

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4-H OF WILL COUNTY

4-H of Will County is part of the Youth Development Program of the University of Illinois Extension. Location: 100 Manhattan Road, Joliet. (815) 727-9296.

GIRL SCOUTS OF TRAILWAYS COUNCIL

Girl Scouts build girls of courage, confidence and character. Location: 1551 Spencer Road, Joliet. (815) 723-3449.

GUARDIAN ANGEL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Guardian Angel offers before-school and after-school programs, mentoring, summer camp, individual and family counseling, foster care, alternative school, domestic violence shelter and services and sexual assault services. Location: 1550 Plainfield Road, Joliet. (815) 729-0930. Hotline: (815) 729-1228.

THE HARVEY BROOKS ACADEMY

The Harvey Brooks Academy's programs serve youth up to age 17. Year-round offerings include after-school academic and recreational programs, snack and nutrition programs, computer literacy, sewing and cooking classes, mentoring and summer youth employment. Other programs for youths and adults can be viewed at the Harvey Brooks Web site: www.hbrooksfoundation.org.

THE H.E.A.R.T. ORGANIZATION

H.E.A.R.T. assists juveniles (11-18 years of age) in achieving judicial compliance and provides an educational program that focuses on the consequences of violating the law, social skills training and anger management. Location: P.O. Box 1655, Bolingbrook. (630) 226-8742.

LEARNING AND SKILLS CENTER

The center provides literacy training, GED preparation and job placement to disadvantaged youths throughout Will County. Location: 1256 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet. (815) 744-8670.

PETER CLAVER CENTER

The center has served economically disadvantaged citizens of Will County for more than 50 years. It provides educational programs, job training/placement services and recreational outlets. Location: 172 S. Chicago Street, Joliet. (815) 722-6361.

SPANISH COMMUNITY CENTER

The center provides bilingual services, a food pantry, immigration assistance, licensed day care, full-day kindergarten, a summer youth camp and job opportunities. Location: 309 Eastern Avenue, Joliet. (815) 727-3683.

WARREN SHARPE COMMUNITY CENTER

The center serves children, youth and families on Joliet's south side with academic tutoring, job training, recreation, athletics and family support services. Location: 472 S. Joliet Street, Joliet. (815) 722-2727.

YMCA OF GREATER JOLIET

The YMCA serves families, youths and adults with recreation, fitness and safety programs. The YMCA also offers before-school and after-school programs, summer and holiday camps, youth sports, swim lessons, senior exercise, youth basketball leagues, youth and family open gym and swim sessions. Location: 749 Houbolt Road, Joliet. (815) 729-9622.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

www.safeyouth.org

www.theantidrug.com

www.willcountysao.com

www.niaaa.nih.gov

www.thecoolspot.gov

Area POLICE DEPARTMENTS

AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief William Powell
350 North River Street
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 859-1700

BEECHER POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Jeff Weissgerber
P.O. BOX 1114, 724 Penfield St.
Beecher, IL 60401
(708) 946-6388

BOLINGBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Raymond McGury
375 West Briarcliff Road
Bolingbrook, IL 60440
(630) 226-8600

BRAIDWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Robert Andreina
141 West Main Street
Braidwood, IL 60408
(815) 458-2341

CHANNAHON POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Steve Admonis
24555 S. Navajo Drive
Channahon, IL 60410
(815) 467-5152

COAL CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Dennis Neary
545 S. Broadway
Coal City, IL 60416
(815) 634-2341

CREST HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief James Ariagno
1610 Plainfield Road
Crest Hill, IL 60403
(815) 741-5115



CRETE POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Paul VanDeraa
1370 Benton Street
Crete, IL 60417
(708) 672-0912

ELWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief David Albert
401 E. Mississippi Avenue
Elwood, IL 60421-0435
(815) 423-5411

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF WILL CO.

C/O Chief Mike Ganster
22606 South Cherry Hill Road
Joliet, IL 60434-1069
(815) 727-8700

FRANKFORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Robert Piscia
20602 Lincolnway Lane
Frankfort, IL 60423
(815) 469-9435

GODLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Acy McGehee
125 A. South Main
Godley, IL 76044
(817) 389-2500

ILLINOIS DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

C/O Sgt. Mark Simon
Goose Lake - 5010 Jugtown Road
Morris, IL 60450
(815) 942-6020

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE – DISTRICT 5

C/O Captain Ken Kaupas
16648 South Broadway Street
Lockport, IL 60441
(815) 726-6377

JOLIET POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Fred Hayes
150 West Washington Street
Joliet, IL 60432
(815) 724-3201

LEMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Kevin Shaughnessy
416 Main Street
Lemont, IL 60439
(630) 257-2229

LOCKPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief James Antole
1212 Farrell Road
Lockport, IL 60441
(815) 838-2131

Area POLICE DEPARTMENTS

MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Timothy Barker
245 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4408

MATTESON POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Norman Burnson
20500 S. Cicero Avenue
Matteson, IL 60443
(708) 748-1564

MINOOKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Lloyd Unland
121 East McEvilly Road
Minooka, IL 60447
(815) 467-2298

MOKENA POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Randy Rajewski
10907 Front Street
Mokena, IL 60448
(708) 479-3912

MONEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Russel Caruso
5357 W. Main Street
Monee, IL 60449
(708) 534-8321

NAPERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief David Dial
1350 Aurora Avenue
Naperville, IL 60540
(630) 420-6665

NEW LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Daniel Martin
701 West Haven
New Lenox, IL 60451
(815) 462-6100

ORLAND PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Timothy McCarthy
15100 W. Ravinia Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60462
(708) 349-4111

PARK FOREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Thomas Fleming
200 Lakewood Blvd.
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 748-4700

PEOTONE POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief William Mort
208 East Main Street
Peotone, IL 60468
(708) 258-9236

PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Donald Bennett
14300 S. Coil Plus Dr.
Plainfield, IL 60544
(815) 436-6544

ROCKDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Richard Baum
79 Moen Avenue
Rockdale, IL 60436
(815) 725-0360

ROMEORVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Andrew Barto
10 Montrose Drive
Romeoville, IL 60446
(815) 886-7219

SAUK VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Thomas Lecheta
21701 Torrence Avenue
Sauk Village, IL 60411
(708) 758-1331

SHOREWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Robert Puleo
903 West Jefferson Street
Shorewood, IL 60404
(815) 725-1460

STEGER POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Richard Stultz
35 W. 34th Street
Steger, IL 60475
(708) 755-0220

TINLEY PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Michael O'Connell
7850 West 183rd Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477
(708) 532-9111

UNIVERSITY PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Melvin Easley II
698 Burnham Drive
University Park, IL 60466
(708) 534-0913

WILL COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

C/O Sheriff Paul J. Kaupas
14 W. Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432
(815) 727-8895

WILMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Chief Wally Evans
120 North Main Street
Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 476-2811

WOODRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

C/O Steven Herron
One Plaza Drive
Woodridge, IL 60517
(630) 719-4740



Cover art concept by Mary Tatroe and James Glasgow.
Cover art by Chucho. For more information and to view his work, go to www.chucho-arte.com.

About the cover: The gavel in the cover art symbolizes the criminal justice system as it cracks down on gang activity in our communities. In addition to illustrating the need for the aggressive prosecution of gang crime, the cover also highlights the importance of awareness, prevention and intervention as a means of curbing gang activity and keeping our children and our communities safe.

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