A joint project of the Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice, School of Labor and Industrial Relations, Urban Affairs Program and the Department of Psychology in partnership with:

- Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police
- Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards
- Michigan Sheriffs Association
- Michigan State Police
- Neighborhood Association of Michigan

And the following police agencies and their partner communities:

- Bay City Police Department
- East Lansing Police Department
- Gerrish Township Police Department
- Grand Haven Police Department
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
- Grand Traverse County Sheriff’s Department
- Jackson Police Department
- Kalamazoo Township Police Department
- Kalkaska County Sheriff’s Department
- Kalkaska Police Department
- Kentwood Police Department
- Lansing Police Department
- Leelanau County Sheriff’s Department
- Marquette County Sheriff’s Department
- Meridian Township Police Department
- Monroe County Sheriff’s Department
- Monroe Police Department
- Mt. Pleasant Police Department
- Muskegon Police Department
- Novi Police Department
- Saginaw-Chippewa Indian Tribal Police
- St. Johns Police Department
- Traverse City Police Department
- Warren Police Department
- Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department
- Ypsilanti Police Department
Volunteers “CUTT” Down Truancy

Lansing police officers heard repeated complaints during the spring of 1997 about school-aged juveniles skipping school and roaming around local neighborhoods and businesses. Further analysis revealed that on average, 10 percent of the 18,500 Lansing School District student population was absent every school day. Some of these absent students were involved in criminal activities, such as stealing vehicles, breaking into homes or stealing from businesses. Others were absent for a variety of personal reasons, such as peer pressure, learning disabilities and family problems. It became clear the communitywide problem of truancy would take a communitywide solution.

Citizens United to Track Truants (CUTT) was implemented October 1997. CUTT is a partnership between the Lansing School District, the Lansing Police Department and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). The CUTT volunteers, all senior citizens, work out of an office in the police department's South Precinct Network Center. They staff a telephone hotline that takes calls from residents and businesses reporting suspected truants.

CUTT focuses on middle-school-aged students. Volunteers get daily student absentee reports from all Lansing middle schools. The volunteers then make follow-up telephone calls to the students’ parents to see if they are aware that their child is not in school. The volunteers keep detailed records of the absences so the Lansing School District Department of Public Safety (LSDDPS) and police can visit the homes of students who are chronic truants and meet with the parents.

Other CUTT volunteers using donated vehicles patrol Lansing's neighborhoods and commercial areas to look for truants. Volunteers, equipped with radios and cellular telephones, call in suspected truants. For safety reasons, the volunteers do not approach the suspected truants, but keep them in sight until a LSDDPS or Lansing police officer arrives. All volunteers complete a 16-hour training program covering truancy law, safety, use of equipment and their specific responsibilities.

CUTT volunteers developed a brochure that details the truancy problem, how to identify truants and how the program works. The volunteers also developed a flyer with the CUTT logo that tells how to report a suspected truant. Volunteers distribute this literature as they make their daily contacts with businesses. This literature is also distributed to parents through the schools and to neighborhood watch groups.

The program currently has 45 active senior citizen volunteers who are outfitted with a CUTT uniform. The volunteers are also given a Lansing School District picture identification card that they are required to wear while on duty. All of the money and equipment to operate the program was donated by Lansing businesses, which are recognized by name in the CUTT brochure.

Truancy Sweeps

This communitywide effort to attack the truancy problem in Lansing has increased the cooperation between the Lansing School District and the Lansing Police Department. Twice a month the school district and the police each schedule six to eight officers to perform a “truancy sweep” to locate truants. Officers from each organization are paired in a vehicle
and given a section of the city to look for truants. Each team is also given addresses to check for chronic truants. When located, a truant is brought to a central location on school district property. The student's parents are located and summoned to the location. Once the parent(s) arrive, a screening takes place to determine why the student was not in school. If intervention is appropriate, referrals are made to other sources of help. The student and his or her parents then meet individually with an assistant prosecuting attorney who explains the law to both parties and reinforces the seriousness of the offense. If this is a first-time offense, the student is issued a ticket for truancy. If it is a second-time or greater offense, the student gets a ticket and the parent is issued a “Failure of Parental Responsibility” ticket. In either case, the student is then released to the parent to be taken back to his or her respective school. The CUTT volunteers do follow-up and track the attendance of students picked up during the sweeps. On average, 30-50 students are picked up on sweep days.

A recent analysis pointed out that from 9/1/97 to 2/28/98 Lansing had 341 juveniles accused of crimes committed Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is to be compared to the 250 juveniles accused of crimes committed the above days and times the following year, 9/1/98 to 2/28/99. This reflects a 27% reduction of juvenile crime during school hours. During the 1996-97 school year, 34% of students in the Lansing School District were absent more than 10 days. For 1997-98, only 23% missed more than 10 days. Lansing Police Department feels that there is a correlation between increased attendance and decreased juvenile crime during the day.

Recently one of our CUTT volunteers was interviewed by a local television station. He was asked by the reporter how many truants he needed to find to make it a good day. The volunteer responded, “When we don't find any, it's a good day.”

We encourage other communities to emulate what we have done to combat truancy. The results speak for themselves. During the 1997 school year Lansing saw a five-percent drop in juvenile crime during school hours. Citizen complaints about school-aged truants walking their neighborhoods have greatly diminished. Criminal-justice scholar W.G. Skogan defined community policing in terms of problem solving and community engagement. Lansing has applied these two basic principles to combat the long-standing truancy problem. We are optimistic that this communitywide effort will reap future dividends by leading to a better educated workforce.

For more information contact:
Captain Mark Alley, South Precinct, Lansing Police Department &
Adjunct Faculty for Michigan State University
(517) 272-7452
e-mail: malley@voyager.net

**Community Partnerships Clean Up Forest**

**Joe N. Fields,**  
**Traverse City Forest Management Unit**

Sheriff Harold Barr is consistently placed in the position of explaining why the crime rate has gone up or down. That's because the crime rate is used by everyone, including the media, to measure the effectiveness of the Sheriff's Office and the quality of life in their community.

Quality of life means many things to many people. The Sheriff's Office has implemented Community Police Officers in twelve of the thirteen Townships in Grand Traverse County.
and they have developed problem solving strategies in support of Community Policing in their Township.

A group of individuals dedicated to maintaining the beauty of our state forest lands spent the majority of their Saturday cleaning up trash. This group removed more than six tons of debris, junk, garbage, and 175 tires from the state forest lands in what is popularly known as Hoosier Valley. The cleanup was organized by Scott Schwander, a Blair Township Sheriff's Deputy, Dave Crosley with a group from Streeter's and a strong force of volunteers from the area including fire fighters from Battalion 5, Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Reserves and local residents interested in beautifying the forest. Gordon Foods, Pepsi-Cola Co., H. Cox & Son, Houdek's Pumping, Prevo's Markets, Nickersons, Blair Township, Grand Traverse Auto Salvage, Quality Farm & Fleet, Blondie's Diner, Grand Traverse Recycling and Waste Management provided food and supplies.

Through this effort, a large portion of the state forest land in Blair Township was cleared of trash that increasingly blights public lands throughout Michigan. The problem of illegal trash dumping is a growing concern for all resource managers and one that is very difficult to address, given the vast area of the forests. Calling a DNR or Forest Service office with reports of individuals depositing trash not only identifies locations, but also leads to the apprehension of responsible individuals. Fines and costs for dumping can range up to $10,000. Even with increased reporting, apprehension and prosecutions, it is unlikely that we can end this trashing of our outdoor heritage without help.

Fortunately, the willing proactive stance of concerned citizens like Schwander and Crosley counter the negative actions of those who do not value the beauty of our woodlands. To help reduce the spread of this menace, please consider how you or your group can contribute to such a worthy citizen-sponsored effort.

For more information contact:
Sheriff Harold Barr, Grand Traverse County Sheriffs Department
(616) 922-4504

*This article appeared in the Traverse City Record Eagle, May 12, 1999.

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**New Millennium Conference Scholarships**

Michigan RCPI will pay up to $275.00 toward registration and lodging for the August 22-24, 1999 Community Policing: The New Millennium Conference. A Maximum of 2 persons per community group organization seeking these funds should send a letter of application to:

Priscilla Holmes, Community Specialist
1407 S. Harrison Road
324A Nisbet Building
East Lansing, MI  48823

Letters are due by July 30, 1999 and should include names of people who will attend, and how conference attendance will help their organization become better partners with their local police department.

Selection Criteria will include:
1. Preference will be given to organization leadership.
2. Preference will be given to organizations that would otherwise not be able to send members.
3. Selection process will take into consideration the diversity of community groups (rural/urban, new/established groups, geographic representation, etc.)

**WHEN:** August 22-24, 1999  
**WHERE:** Crowne Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Four Training Tracks:**

- Community Policing: The Evolving Organization
- Future Trends and Issues in Community Policing
- Community: Building Blocks
- Safe Schools Through Community Policing

**Conference Speakers:**

**David Carter**, Ph.D., Director, National Center for Community Policing, and faculty member at the School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University, is a former Kansas City, Missouri, police officer. He regularly teaches community policing at the FBI National Academy, and has served as a Research Fellow for the Police Executive Research Forum.

**James R. Coldren**, Jr., Ph.D., Director, University of Illinois, Chicago, Center for Research Law and Justice.

**Harry P. Dolan**, Chief, Grand Rapids, Michigan since 1998, prior to that he was Chief of Police in Lumberton, North Carolina. While serving as Lumberton's Chief, he instituted a community policing model that is used as an example nationwide.

**J. Kevin Ford**, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Michigan State University, has research interests in improving training effectiveness through efforts to advance our understanding of training needs assessment, design, evaluation, and transfer. Dr. Ford concentrates on increasing our understanding of training as a system and the building of continuous learning orientations within organizations. He has published over 30 articles and chapters, serves on the editorial board of Personnel Psychology, Academy of Management Journal, and the Training Research Journal, and is an active consultant with private industry and the public sector on training and organizational development issues.

**Paul Haan**, Executive Director, Creston Neighborhood Association, an independent 501 C(3) non-profit organization that has been serving the 5,000 households of the near northeast side of Grand Rapids for more than 21 years. CNA mobilizes hundreds of volunteers against a wide variety of issues including crime, access to health care, youth activities, home
ownership and repair, access to banking services, neighborhood beautification, and more. CNA’s core strategies are community organizing and leadership development. Paul has broad experience in block organizing, issue organizing, coalition building, strategizing, and program development.

Karen Hayter, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Edison Neighborhood, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Robert Johnson, Chief of Police, Lansing, Michigan, has been responsible for significant initiatives and innovative police programs resulting in safer neighborhoods in both Michigan and Mississippi.

Barbara Markle, Ph.D., Director of K12 Outreach, College of Education, Michigan State University, develops and implements programs for classroom teachers, school administrators, university faculty, and policy-makers that translate educational research to application in schools and settings where education policy decisions are made. Dr. Markle has public school experience including service as a classroom teacher, school counselor, building principal, and director of curriculum. She also served as Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction in the Michigan Department of Education where she was responsible for Michigan's education reform initiatives.

Barbara B. McDonald, Assistant Deputy Superintendent, Chicago Police Department, serves as co-manager of the Chicago Police Department's unique community oriented policing strategy -- the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS). She is one of the principal authors of Together We Can: A Strategic Plan for Reinventing the Chicago Police Department -- the vision document developed to guide CAPS implementation, and numerous CAPS training curricula. Prior to her most recent promotion, she served as the Director of Research and Planning.

Jean Mendenhall, President, Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Rosie O'Grady, President, Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Theodore F. O'Keefe, Project Manager, Chicago's CAPS Implementation Office. In this capacity, he coordinates the city's marketing campaign, which is designed to increase awareness of and stimulate greater participation in CAPS; he coordinates the delivery of city services to alleviate conditions that can foster crime; and he supervises a staff of community organizers to mobilize city neighborhoods. Prior to joining the CAPS Implementation Office, he served as project manager for Chicago For Youth, a program focusing on the development of a community infrastructure for the delivery of a comprehensive array of youth programs and services.

Steve Person, Lieutenant, Technical Services Bureau, Lansing, Michigan, Police Department, is in charge of creating decentralized mapping and crime analysis for field office use.

Kay Pranis, Restorative Justice Planner, Minnesota Department of Corrections.

Charles H. Ramsey, Chief, Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department, began
his career as a Chicago police cadet in 1968, rising through Chicago ranks to Deputy Superintendent of the Bureau of Staff Services. Chief Ramsey was instrumental in designing and implementing the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS), the city's nationally acclaimed model of community policing. He also designed and implemented the CAPS operational model, helped to develop new training curricula and communications efforts to support implementation, and oversaw a five-year, independent evaluation of community policing in Chicago.

**Patricia Reynolds**, President, The Capital Region Community Foundation, Lansing, Michigan. The foundation is a non-profit public charity with assets in excess of $15,000,000 providing donor service, community collaboration, and grant awards to non-profit organizations and endeavors. She has 18 years experience as a non-profit administrator and a community/healthcare fund-raiser.

**Barbara Schoppman**, Director of Neighborhoods/Citizens Advocate Office, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**Darrel W. Stephens**, City Administrator, St. Petersburg, Florida (Invited), served as Police Chief in the St. Petersburg Police Department, prior to becoming that city's City Administrator. Prior to that he was Police Chief in Newport News, Virginia, where that department became nationally recognized for its work with problem oriented policing.

**Julie Wartell**, Institute for Law and Justice, San Diego, California, has recently completed a fellowship with the National Institute of Justice Crime Mapping Research Center where she coordinated training development and co-edited a book on crime mapping case studies.

**Lodging:**
Lodging is available at the Crowne Plaza, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Each participant must contact the Crowne Plaza at (616) 957-1770 or 1-800-2CROWNE and make arrangements. A block of rooms is reserved under “Michigan State University, Community Policing.” The last day to register for rooms is August 2, 1999.

**Registration:**
The registration fee is $195/person; $150/person if 3 or more from the same community attend. This entitles the registrant to Sunday's Reception, lunch Monday and Tuesday, Monday dinner and break refreshments. Seats are limited to 300. Registration forms accompanied by the fee or a purchase order will guarantee participation within the 300 seat limit.

**Mail Payment and Registration Information to:**
Michigan Regional Community Policing Institute
Attn: Kathy Shell
Michigan State University
1407 S. Harrison Road
324 Nisbet Building
East Lansing, MI  48823-5239
Phone: 355-9648

Please check out our website at:
SUBMISSIONS:

All articles and photographs will be considered for publication. *Community Policing Partnerships* seeks articles on successful community policing stories, community partnerships, problem-solving strategies and other topics that are helpful to communities and law enforcement agencies. Please send articles and photographs (black and white glossy preferred) to:

Michigan Regional Community Policing Institute,
Community Policing Partnerships,

*Attn:* Christina Wilkerson,
1407 S. Harrison Road,
336 Nisbet Building,
East Lansing, MI 48823
or e-mail – christina.wilkerson@ssc.msu.edu.

Successfully Collaborating With Business:
The Traverse City Job Fair For Youth

*Cathy J. Siebert, Ph.D., Priscilla Holmes, Community Specialist
Michigan Regional Community Policing Institute*

May 1, 1999 witnessed an extremely successful Job Fair for Youth in Traverse City, Michigan. Initiated by the Traverse Heights Neighborhood Association and working in close partnership with Traverse City area businesses and schools, more than forty fourteen to eighteen year olds participated in a morning of job interviews. Teenagers talked with over twenty-one personnel directors and managers of businesses representing the gamut of food services, hotel/motel, grocery stores, retail, and the Interlochen Music Camp. Early data reflects a seventy-five percent employment rate, with many youths actually employed before leaving the job fair.

Priscilla Holmes, Community Specialist with the Michigan Regional Community Policing Institute (RCPI), collaborates with the Traverse Heights Neighborhood Association and Traverse City Police Department to strengthen neighborhood organizations. As part of this collaboration, a need was identified to productively channel the time and energy of area youth for periods when they were not attending school. From this need came the ideas for sponsoring a Job Fair for Youth. In support of this endeavor, the RCPI held a workshop entitled “Planning a Job Fair for Neighborhood Youth” for all community members interested in participating in the project. From this seminar, community members learned the nuts and bolts of planning and
implementing a successful job fair for youth including how to recruit employers and prospective employees.

Although the Job Fair for Youth was initiated by a neighborhood group, other community partners very quickly agreed to become part of the project. Representatives from Traverse City Public Schools, local businesses, the police department, and City Manager's office joined the planning committee. Committee members assisted with publicity, building layout, employer/youth orientations, and served as volunteers at the job fair.

Prior to the actual Job Fair, efforts were made to prepare both teenagers and employers to ensure a successful event. An Oversight Committee composed of representatives from the school, the police department, and local businesses defined Philosophical Guidelines for the event. These included decisions that every employer should interview as many teenagers as possible, each teenager should have a minimum of three or four interviews, and interviews should occur by appointment only. Teenagers were provided with guidelines and prepared one-page resumes which included their job preferences well in advance of the event. An orientation for participating employers was held at which time logistical information was provided and reviewed.

The Oversight Committee also took responsibility for matching job applications with employers and developed an interview schedule for each youth and employer. Each teenager had a minimum of five interviews with some scheduled to meet with up to eight interviewers. Interviews took approximately twenty minutes each, with prospective employers averaging ten interviews over the four and a half-hour event. In order to prevent missed interviews and to ensure that each teenager would experience as many interviews as possible, employers were requested not to hire on the spot. However, Job Permit Application forms were available to teenagers the morning of the event, and it was evident that many teenagers were leaving the Job Fair at the end of the morning already employed.

Formal evaluation of the event is currently underway. Each participating employer will be called to determine hiring decisions and to solicit feedback regarding what went well and suggestions for ways in which to improve the event. However, immediate reactions from participants the morning of the Job Fair for Youth reflect overwhelming enthusiasm. Both employers and youth gave high marks for the great opportunities the event provided for participants and applauded the caliber of organization which ensured a successful event. In fact, while the Neighborhood Association is considering sponsoring an annual Job Fair, participating businesses are strongly advocating biannual opportunities. As one employer commented, “You did all the work for us. We did the easy part – just hired people.”

As Priscilla Holmes points out, “This event was a win-win situation for a number of stakeholders in the community.” The Traverse City Job Fair for Youth clearly illustrates the potential for successful collaboration among stakeholders in a community. It identifies and successfully addresses problems which might contribute to crime and social disorder. Working together, Community Police Departments, governmental officials, businesses, and community members become powerful allies in the effort to improve the lives of all citizens within their community.

Upcoming Training – Open Sessions

- August 12, Crime and Data Analysis, East Lansing
Hold This Date !!

Neighborhood Association of Michigan (NAM) Annual Conference will be held September 17 & 18, 1999 in Battle Creek, Michigan. There are a limited number of scholarships available through the Michigan Regional Community Policing Institute.

For more information, contact: Priscilla Holmes, Community Specialist
at (517) 432-3345
or e-mail priscilla.holmes@ssc.msu.edu

Nexus of Community Policing and Domestic Violence Conference

On October 27-29, 1999, The Nexus of Community Policing and Domestic Violence Conference will take place at the Midway Best Western, Lansing, Michigan. With funding from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) through the Michigan Regional Community Policing Institute (RCPI), this conference will not be the traditional domestic violence conference.

**Lodging** with restrictions will be paid from grant funds. Each participant must contact the Best Western Midway Motor Lodge at (517) 627-8471 and make arrangements. A block of rooms are reserved under the conference name. Be sure to mention you will be attending the “Nexus of Community Policing and Domestic Violence Conference”. The last day to register for rooms is September 27, 1999.

**Registration** is on a first come first serve basis. Seats are limited. Online registration is available on our website at: www.cj.msu.edu/~outreach/copsdv Receipt of your registration form accompanied by the fee or purchase order will guarantee your place at the conference.

If you have any questions, or wish to receive a brochure or registration form please contact us at:

Michigan Regional Community Policing Institute
Attn: Christina Wilkerson
Michigan State University
1407 S. Harrison Road
336 Nisbet Building
East Lansing, MI
phone: (517) 432-3156 or
e-mail christina.wilkerson@ssc.msu.edu.
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