or simply the satisfaction of making the community safer.

- Support schools and youth clubs in their efforts to keep guns, knives, and other weapons from menacing the everyday lives of children and teens. Encourage children to report any weapons they know about in or near school to school staff or police.
- Look around to see what happens to your people after school hours. Are there supervised programs for younger children? Opportunities for teens and preteens to work with children, get or give help with homework, tackle neighborhood problems, or learn art, music, sports, or computer skills? In many areas, after-school programs are located in schools themselves and are called Safe Havens or Beacon Schools.
- Start a discussion of neighborhood views on weapons in the home, children playing with toy weapons, children and violent entertainment, and how arguments should be settled. A PTA meeting, an informal social gathering, or a Neighborhood Watch meeting could provide the opportunity.
- Learn your state and local laws on firearms. Insist that these laws be enforced vigorously but fairly. Support police, prosecutors, judges, and other local officials who enforce laws designed to prevent gun violence.

MARYLAND COMMUNITY
CRIME PREVENTION INSTITUTE
Police Training Commission
6852 4th Street
Sykesville, MD 21784
800-303-8802

NCPC

NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW • 13th Floor • Washington, DC 20036
www.ncpc.org

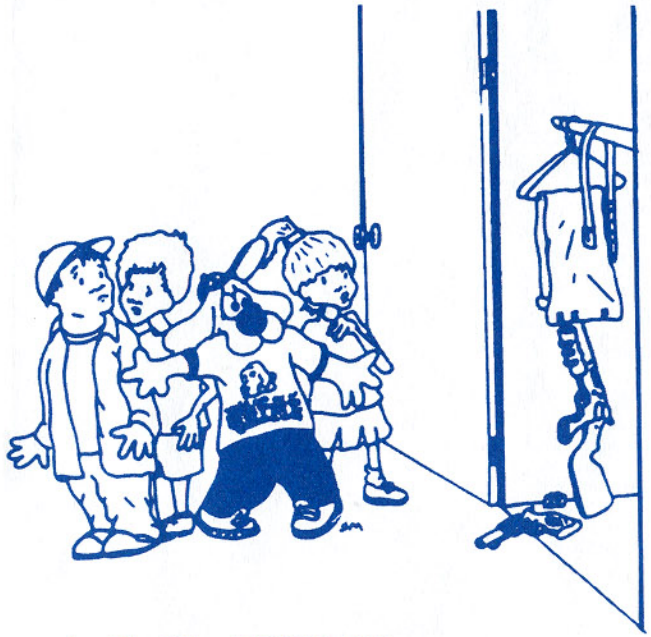
The National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign, sponsored by the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, is substantially funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

tyco / Fire & Security ADT

Production made possible by a grant from ADT Security Services, Inc., A Tyco International Ltd. Company

TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME®

It's Time To Stop the Violence



Let's Start With Weapons

When we talk about violence, we can't ignore weapons. Weapons make violence more deadly and less personal.

REDUCE THE RISK

- Think hard about having weapons, especially firearms, in your home.
- Look at other ways to protect yourself and your home. Invest in top-grade locks, jamming devises for doors and windows, a dog, or an alarm system. Start or join a Neighborhood Watch. Check with the police, YMCA/YWCA, or the recreation department about a self-defense class.
- If you do choose to own weapons, make sure they are safely stored. That means keeping firearms unloaded, trigger-locked, and in a locked gun case or pistol box, with ammunition separately locked. Store keys out of reach of children, away from weapons and ammunition. Check frequently to make sure this storage remains secure.
- If you own a firearm, obtain training from a certified instructor in firearms safety for everyone in the home. Make sure it's kept current.
- Teach your children what to do if they find a firearm or something that might be a weapon—*Stop, Don't Touch, Get Away, and Tell a Trusted Adult.*

STOP VIOLENCE

- Show children how to settle arguments or solve problems without using words or actions that hurt others. Set the example by the way you handle conflicts in the family, at work, and in the neighborhood. Don't forget that common courtesies, like saying please, thank you, and excuse me, help ease tensions that can lead to violence.
- Discourage name-calling and teasing. These can easily get out of hand, moving all too quickly from "just words" to fists, knives, and even firearms. Teach children that bullying is wrong and take their fears about bullies seriously.
- Take a hard look at what you, your family, and your friends watch and listen to for entertainment—from action movies and cop shows to video games and music lyrics. How do the characters solve problems? Do they make violence appear exciting, funny, or glamorous? Are the real-life consequences of violence for victims and families clear? Talk about what each of you did and didn't like.
- Stick with friends and family who steer clear of violence and drugs, and encourage your children to do the same. Research shows use of alcohol and other drugs is closely linked with violence, including the use of guns and other weapons.

TAKE ACTION IN THE COMMUNITY

- Be sure you know where and how to report potentially violent situations or concerns about conditions in the neighborhood that could lead to violence. Ask your police department for help in identifying what to report, as well as when, to whom, and how to report.
- Consider organizing an event that lets people turn in weapons, or even objects that might be mistaken for real weapons, in exchange for books, coupons from local merchants, toys,