

# Safer Communities

2011-2012-- New Hanover County



A Parent's Guide, 2nd Edition

THE WILMINGTON  
**JOURNAL**

August 11, 2011

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Message from *The Wilmington Journal* . . . . . 3**  
*Conquering tragedy through faith*  
*and a supportive community . . . . . 4*

**Message from the City of Wilmington . . . . . 7**

**Message from the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Department . . . . 8**

**A Safer Community for Senior Citizens . . . . . 9**  
*Project Lifesaver: Locating loved ones who have wandered*  
*Are you OK?: Taking the fear out of being alone*

**Message from New Hanover County Schools . . . . . 10**

**Anti-Bullying Policy in New Hanover County Schools . . . . . 11**

**Message from University of North Carolina Wilmington . . . . . 12**

***Safety by the Numbers* . . . . . 13**

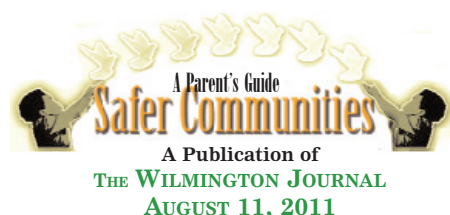
**Understanding Today’s Drugs . . . . . 14**

**Understanding Gangs . . . . . 16**  
*What Is a Gang?*  
*Why Do Kids Join Gangs?*  
*How Do They Join?*  
*Common Gang Identifiers*  
*Girl Gangs*  
*Warning Signs*  
*What Parents Can Do*

**Bullying . . . . . 22**  
*Cyberbullying*

**Resources . . . . . 24**  
*National*  
*State*  
*Local*

**Partners . . . . . 28**



# Message from

## THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL



It's been eight years since *The Wilmington Journal* hosted its last Annual African American Heritage Festival. The vision was

born out of the minds of a few staff members, and the task was carried out by a several devoted souls that wanted to celebrate the heritage of African Americans in the Southeastern region of our state. Unfortunately, the decline in the local, state and national economy deferred our dreams of making this event materialize during the past years. Yet the vision has always remained in our minds, and the good intentions never abandoned our hearts. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that we are absolutely thrilled that our hopes have now come to fruition, and we are able to once again present the 3rd Annual African American Heritage Festival. In that same breath, it burdens my spirit to know that young lives had to be sacrificed to magnify this year's theme and primary purpose, which is to promote "Unity in the Community".

As I interviewed two mourning mothers and one grieving grandmother for this special publication, "Safer Communities", I felt blessed to be in the presence of remarkable women who possessed an amazing amount of strength and unwavering faith. But what amazed me most, is that, before the closing of all of our conversations, each one expressed her sadness as she discussed other disheartening local stories of violence that did not directly affect her. "I feel for his mother," or "My heart

goes out to the family," they all affirmed. Their selfless show of concern, embodies the message of "unity in the community," which means we must mobilize as a community to put an end to the slaying of our young people. We must adopt a kindred spirit that makes us all feel like family when we lose a child to violence.

It is my sincerest hope that readers will be enlightened by these stories and educated by the valuable information shared by the New Hanover County Sherriff's Department, the New Hanover County Schools, the University of North Carolina Wilmington, and the City of Wilmington, all of which fully supported this effort.

Prayerfully, the testimonies will weigh heavily on the hearts of those young people that have been hardened by hopelessness and despair. Additionally, we hope that the adults of the community will bridge the generation gap and be motivated to mentor young people who think we have left them to fend for themselves. Without the cooperation of everyone, we cannot begin the healing process and clear the path to create "safer communities". Ultimately, we hope to save a life of a young person, while sparing the unspeakable pain of the families who are left behind to cherish the memories of loved ones lost to violence.

Sincerely,

Johanna Thatcher-Briggs  
Assistant Editor

# Conquering tragedy through faith and a supportive community

BY JOHANNA THATCH BRIGGS



JOHN DAVIS PHOTO

Holding up a green shirt, signed with messages from friends and family, Teresa Walker said, "I keep his favorite shirt at my bedside." In the other hand, she holds a gold crucifix and explains the significance, "The day after he was shot, I washed his clothes. I heard something tumbling in the dryer, and I found this. It was in his pocket."

## "T. J."

**W**hen Teresa Walker took the time to reflect on what she misses most about her son, "T. J.", she took a moment. It's not that she doesn't know what to say, but it is simply difficult to hold back the tears. While gathering her composure, she shared, "I miss him coming in and making sure that I'm okay. I miss him coming and saying, 'Mama, give me a kiss.' He always played around. The house is quiet now because he always livened it up. He was a jolly person. If he could help you out, he would. Everybody loved him in the neighborhood. He was not a troubled child. He loved to go fishing, and he loved gardening and planting."

On June 30, 2011, Ms. Walker heard three shots prompting her to see what happened in her Northside neighborhood. When someone told her that T. J. had been shot, she attempted to approach the crime scene, but law enforcement officers would not allow her. In the end, she never was able to console her child or express her love in his last moments. 16 year old Tony Harris, Jr. was pronounced dead at New Hanover



Regional Medical Center due to a gunshot wound in the chest. He would have been seventeen on July 18th if he had lived to see his birthday.

T. J. was found shot on the porch of a resident that lived on North 5th Avenue. Although, there was still daylight outside at 7:30 p.m., no one has provided any information that has led to an arrest in the case. Ms. Walker, who wants closure, told *The Journal* she had just warned him to be careful about where he spent his time. She recalled, "The day before, I was talking to him and I told him I didn't want him around there." Now, a memorial sits at the site where he was tragically murdered. Taking it "one day at a time", Ms. Walker still struggles with the fact that she will never see her son again. She admits, "In the morning, I look for him, and at night I look for him to come through the door."

Holding up a green shirt, signed with messages from friends and family, she said, "I keep his favorite shirt at my bedside." In the other hand, she holds a gold crucifix and explains the significance: "The day after he was shot, I washed his clothes. I heard something tumbling in the dryer, and I found this. It was in his pocket."

Ms. Walker's dearest wish is that someone will do the right thing and come forward with the truth about who killed her son. Until then, she sends a message to the youth in the community: "Put school ahead of everything. Instead of all of this killing, get an education. There are enough young men in prison."



JOHN DAVIS PHOTO

**"The last thing Marcus did was to feed the dog for me because he knew I was scared of dogs," said his grandmother and minister, Eva Holmes. A makeshift memorial now replaces Marcus's physical presence in the home. His photograph sits against a backdrop, which is surrounded by the family's Bible, Black angels, a Black church choir, inspirational poems, photographs of loved ones, and his personal childhood book of bedtime stories. A lit candle serves as a symbolic centerpiece, which Ms. Holmes said always stays there.**

## Marcus

**E**va Holmes will forever remember her grandson, Marcus Lyndon Hankins, II, as "popular", "athletic", and "very noble"--"a person that you had to like". Her hearty laughter lightens the somber moment as Ms. Holmes remembers the South Brunswick High School senior's dollar menu habit. "Marcus could come in the room and light it up. I miss him calling me 'Ma'. I miss taking him to McDonald's everyday because I don't care what you cooked, he ate McDonald's every day."

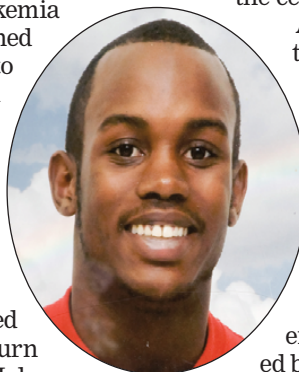
"Typical teenager" is the immediate thought as she describes her daughter's only child in vivid detail. Yet she does remember one defining characteristic about Marcus that made him different from his peers. "He needed his dad. His dad died of leukemia when Marcus was only about 3 or 4 years old. We knew something happened when he won a Pop Warner Championship in Florida and he didn't want to ride the bus back home with the other kids. He wanted to ride with us, and when we asked him why, he said, 'Everyone's got their dads.' I've never seen a kid miss his dad like him."

As upsetting as it was to look in the crowd and notice his dad was missing, Marcus did not quit playing football. In fact, he excelled in the sport and had already planned to attend and play football at North Carolina A&T State University. His grandmother remarked, "All of this stuff wasn't taught. With Marcus, playing sports was a gift."

His ball playing dreams tragically dissolved when someone shot and killed the 18 year old athlete on April 16, 2011 after an altercation took a deadly turn following a teen party held at the Democratic Headquarters in Bolivia. Ms. Holmes told *The Journal*, "The building was rented under false pretense for a wedding reception, so there was no adult supervision. It was just by mercy and grace that only one kid died that night."

According to Ms. Holmes, Marcus was shot in the chest at close range. She stated that although seven 911 calls were made, "nobody came". She said, "His uncle transported him to the hospital. Marcus was born in Supply Hospital, and he died at Supply Hospital".

Almost four months later, no one has been arrested for the slaying of the budding and beloved football standout. Of this disturbing fact Ms. Holmes stated, "I believe they will



arrest a person, and I believe they will be brought to justice. We can't tell the Lord when to do things. He does things on His time, so I am going to rest in that, be patient and wait on Him." Although some time has passed, time has not completely healed those who loved Marcus dearly. Ms. Holmes told *The Journal*, "Sometimes I go to the cemetery, and I tell him I'm sorry somebody killed him. But I know God knows things we don't, and I'm comfortable with that." Instead, her deepest concern is for her daughter, Joyce Hankins. She explained, "Sometimes she doesn't want to carry on, but she comes from a family with a strong relationship with Christ. He had a great love for his mother because they suffered the same loss. She was a young widow. They both missed the same person. As women, we can do everything we know how to do, but there's a certain role a man or a father must play. We don't know how to replace a father's love. You can only do what you're created to do."

She continued, "A part of her is really gone. She used to feed the ball team, but now she doesn't even want to cook anymore. I don't know the words to explain it. She goes to the cemetery everyday--before or after work."

And though the loss has left emptiness in their hearts, Ms. Holmes, a minister, has a reserved space in her spirit for forgiveness. She offered these words of wisdom, "I would hope that the person who did this would change their life and give it to Christ because God can use anybody. If God can forgive a murderer, I should be able to do the same. I want to encourage young people to find a better way to solve their problems. It doesn't have to be with a fight or a gun. Talk to somebody and get some understanding of how you can handle it because somebody may die and never come home gain."

Marcus never came home again, and Ms. Holmes has one lasting memory, "The last thing he did was to feed the dog for me because he knew I was scared of dogs." A makeshift memorial now replaces Marcus's physical presence in the home. His photograph sits against a backdrop, which is surrounded by the family's Bible, Black angels, a Black church choir, inspirational poems, photographs of loved ones, and his personal childhood book of bedtime stories. A lit candle serves as a symbolic centerpiece, which Ms. Holmes said always stays there.

As she returns from the safe place where she retrieved Marcus's graduation program and high school diploma, she expressed, "I would have loved to see him march, but that didn't matter as much as the diploma. They paid tribute to him at the graduation and included his name on the program. When they called his name, he received a standing ovation. I don't think they did it because of what happened; I think they did it because they loved him."



JOHN DAVIS PHOTO

Pete's two year old son points to his dad in photo. Pete's mother, Teresa Blanks, says of her grandson, "Sometimes he tells us, 'Bring my daddy back.' "

## "Pete"

July 29, 2011 marks the last time someone "stopped by to show some love" on the Facebook page created to honor the life of 20 year old Cornelius Tremayne Blanks, who was gunned down at a Wilmington night club on May 8, 2011. Although nearly three months have passed since his death, his friends and family leave him heartfelt messages to prove he will never be forgotten. "Missing you so much..." is the prevailing sentiment that can be found in almost every post, but perhaps no one misses him more than the one who gave him life.

While many mothers were showered with warm wishes and sentimental gifts for Mothers' Day, Teresa Blanks received a phone call in the early hours on May 8th. Reliving that moment, she recalled, "It was about 2:00 a.m., and I could hear everyone in the background was hysterical. Then someone said, 'Pete just got shot.' I dropped the phone, ran to his room to see if he was there. The only one I saw was his son, and I just lost it. I was so out of it."

Mrs. Blanks said she rushed to New Hanover Regional Medical Center, where Cornelius succumbed to an untimely death after losing too much blood from a fatal gunshot wound in the chest. Her son, who was affectionately known as "Pete", had travelled from Pender County to go out with out-of-town relatives to Club 609 in Wilmington. Misfortune met him in the parking lot after gang members allegedly started a fight in the club.

On the evening before, the family enjoyed a 95th birthday celebration for Mrs. Blanks's father in Hankins Park. Mrs. Blanks said the weekend's events were supposed to close with the visiting of her mother's gravesite in observance of Mothers' Day. Celebrating the life of her father and embracing the memory of her mother were a part of the plan, but Mrs. Blanks never envisioned that she would be experiencing the loss of her son.

"I had five boys, including a set of twins. I miss Cornelius. He was the knee baby. He kept us laughing, and he loved to clown. Now we look at his little boy, and he does things that his daddy would do, and we just say, 'That's Pete!'"



As though she "talked him up," Pete's two year old son arises, rubbing his eyes from a good night's rest, and joins everyone in the living room. She welcomes his company, and explains, "It's so hard when you leave behind a small child. Sometimes he tells us, 'Bring my daddy back.' "

And though the finality of death is a reality beyond the understanding of a toddler, Mrs. Blanks confesses she struggles with saying goodbye as well, "I never shut my room door, but I've been closing it lately. I lie there and wait for him to open that door to say, 'Mama, I want to use the car', but I'm waiting for something that will never happen."

She also admits that she never thought such a tragedy would ever come to her "front door". Referring to the unsolved murder of 18 year old Marcus Hankins, who was killed the month before Pete, she expresses, "I used to sit and watch the news, and when I saw how the young man in Brunswick County was killed, I thought, 'My heart goes out to his family.' It's a hard pill to swallow."

Even more difficult for the Blanks family to grasp is the idea that no suspects have been arrested for the murder of her son. "I want justice. I want the police to find my son's killer. Out of 190 witnesses, nobody saw anything."

Pointing to the recliner in the corner, she told *The Journal*, "One day, I just sat there in that chair and said, 'Pete, tell me what happened. Send me a sign.' But Pete can't tell me anything, so I put it in their [the Wilmington Police Department] hands."

In the meantime, she draws strength from a higher power, a loving family, and a supportive community. "God is the one who has kept me, and God is going to be the one to get me through it. We just keep the memories, keep the faith, and take it day by day."

Mrs. Blanks said family members call daily, and members from the community visit often from as early as 9:00 a.m. to as late as 12 midnight. She expressed, "I am so overwhelmed of how the community poured in. These people know he we love these boys. Words can't even explain how people showed us so much love."

To the younger sect of the community that seems to be wrapped up in the negative hype of gang violence, she sends the message, "My son was not a gang banger. My son went to church with his child, and he went to work at night. Young people need to value life more than they do. What is going on? It's time to draw the line, and say, 'Something's got to stop.' There are too many innocent young men out here getting killed."



**MAYOR  
BILL SAFFO**

# City of Wilmington Message



Mayor  
Bill Saffo

Mayor Pro-Tem  
Earl Sheridan, Ph.D.

Council Members  
Kevin O'Grady  
:aira W. Padgett  
Charlie H. Rivenbark, Jr.  
Ronald W. Sparks, P.E.  
Kristi A. Tomey

Dear Citizen:

The youth in our community are our future. They deserve the best opportunities we can offer so that they may grow into responsible adults. Unfortunately, some young people are caught up in gangs and crime that is spreading through the country.

The City of Wilmington has been working diligently to provide our community with resources to help address this issue locally. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Youth Violence is one effort that is educating the community and addressing youth violence issues in New Hanover County.

Yet there are many things that we as individuals can do to help reduce crime in our area.

- Parents are the first line of defense in combating crimes involving young people. Talk to your children about drugs and gangs. Learn their interests. Encourage them to take part in positive activities. The more involved you are in your child's life, the less likely they will feel the need to join a gang or act out in a negative way.
- Educate yourself on gangs and gang symbols. This can help to identify whether or not your child is involved with a gang.
- Establish a Neighborhood Watch group in your neighborhood. Law enforcement agencies report an impressive drop of burglaries and related offenses in communities with an active Neighborhood Watch program in place.
- Get involved in your community. Report crimes in your area. Make a note of any suspicious activities and don't turn a blind eye to potential crime.

All of us bear the responsibility of fighting crime in our city. Working together we can dramatically reduce crime in our community.

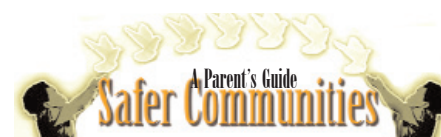
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Saffo".



Mayor and City Council

City Hall 102 North Third Street PO Box 1810 Wilmington, NC 28402-1810  
910 341 7815 910 341 4628 fax wilmingtontnc.gov



A Publication of  
THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL  
AUGUST 11, 2011

New Hanover County Sheriff's Office



# Message

3950 Juvenile Center Road  
Castle Hayne, NC 28429  
910-798-4206  
Fax: 910-798-4212



**SHERIFF  
EDWARD J. MCMAHON**

July 1, 2011

Dear Citizens of New Hanover County:

The New Hanover County Sheriff's Office is proud to be a contributor to **"A Parent's Guide to Safer Communities"** published by *The Wilmington Journal*. As parents, we all play a critical role in the development and future of our children.

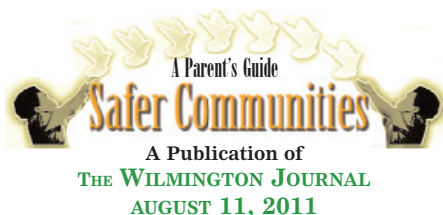
I ask that you use the resources available in this Guide and become an advocate for all that is good within our community. While the criminal element seeks to permeate every level of our society, we must take a stand and fight for those we love most, those who will become our protectors, and those whose future is filled with possibilities--our children. The time has come to take a proactive stance and let everyone know that the criminal element will no longer be tolerated. We must work together if there is ever to be progress in this area.

Thank you for working to make New Hanover County a safer place to work and live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward J. McMahon".

Edward J. McMahon  
Sheriff





# A Safer Community for Senior Citizens

## Project Lifesaver: Locating loved ones who have wandered away

**P**roject Lifesaver is a locating system for individuals who have Alzheimer's, dementia, Down Syndrome, autism or other brain-related disorders which cause the person to wander. Persons who are enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized bracelet that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify the Sheriff's Office that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with the mobile locator tracking system. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes.

Project Lifesaver emphasizes the relationships between team members and the people who may wander before the need may arise for a rescue. Team members consist of deputies from the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office and the Air Crew of the Sable Helicopter. A deputy visits the home of the recipients to install the transmitter and then makes semi-monthly visits to replace the battery and record any changes in the client's habit or behavior.

The Project Lifesaver bracelet contains a one-ounce battery operated radio wrist transmitter which emits an automatic tracking signal every second, 24 hours a day. The signal can be tracked on the ground or in the air over several miles. As each bracelet has a unique radio frequency, the Project Lifesaver search team positively locates and identifies the person who has wandered.



Any person who is a resident of New Hanover County at risk to wander is eligible for this service. The person must be currently cared for in the home. A caregiver must be available to inspect the equipment on a daily basis.

Sheriff Ed J. McMahon is committed to Project Lifesaver and has committed funds as well as manpower for the program. He understands the hardships the families of these patients endure and has been adamant about providing the service to the residents of New Hanover County free of charge. Additional support for the program is provided by the Pilot Club of Wilmington by fund raising and volunteering. Pilot members come from all walks of life, but share a common trait: the desire to help people in need and make the community a better place to live. The work Pilot members perform in the community illustrates the power of friendship, service, compassion, and respect for all people.

The New Hanover County Sheriff's Office has been a part of the Project Lifesaver Program since 2005 and has enrolled over 175 clients in the program and presently has 49 clients. For additional information or an application please contact The New Hanover County Sheriff's Office, Community Services Unit @ (910) 798-4131.

*Source: [www.projectlifesaver.org](http://www.projectlifesaver.org).*

## Are you Ok?: Taking the fear out of being alone

**D**o you live alone and sometimes feel lonely? If only there were someone that would check on you from time to time. Oh, but that could cost money, and you're on a fixed income! Someone checking on you would give you some peace of mind and help you feel not so all alone. Well then, maybe you should consider a free program offered to the citizens of New Hanover County called the "Are You Ok?" Program. This is a telephone reassurance system that is utilized to make contact with elderly persons, handicapped, homebound individuals, or older adults with families that may live a great distance away. This system was designed to give people a feeling of security and well being. The "Are You Ok?" Program is a system that eases the concern of family and friends who may find it difficult to maintain consistent reliable contact. An 85 year old woman wants the independence of living alone in her home with the security of being monitored. "The Are You Ok?" Program brings a sense of comfort into every subscriber's home. Each day at a pre-arranged time, the "Are You Okay?" Program automatically makes these computerized monitoring calls to check on the well being of the subscriber. The subscriber chooses a time between 6 am and 10 am. to have an automated telephone call gen-



erated. The subscriber will receive a call every day at that pre-arranged time. When the subscriber answers the phone, he or she will hear a voice saying, "This is The New Hanover County Sheriff's Office Are You Okay? Program, if you are okay, please hang up the phone. If you are not ok, hang up and dial 911." If the subscriber doesn't answer the telephone after a preset number of call attempts, an ALERT is given on the computer. The ALERT print-out contains emergency information on the subscriber, including emergency contact person, doctor's name and phone number. The subscriber's next of kin information and a short medical history field is also provided on the ALERT. When an Alert is issued, a deputy will take the appropriate action to check the well being of the subscriber, including going to the subscriber's residence to personally check on him or her.

There is no cost to the subscriber for this service. The subscriber must live in New Hanover County and possess a home telephone or either a cell phone provider at his/her residence that accepts incoming calls.

*Source: [www.ruok.com/guest/](http://www.ruok.com/guest/)*



# Greetings from New Hanover County Schools



## School Safety in New Hanover County

It is no secret that within the past twenty years, concerns regarding student safety in schools have increased as a result of several tragic events. Memories of students fleeing

Columbine, or frantic phone calls to 911 from the campus of Virginia Tech are all too fresh in our minds. These images are haunting, and the accompanying statistics are concerning to parents. However, it's critical that parents and community members be aware of the measures the New Hanover County Schools take to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and faculty.

Our job as educators extends far beyond lessons of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Students in New Hanover County Schools receive a well-rounded education that also encompasses social skills and violence prevention training. All students in grades K-8 receive weekly social skills instruction utilizing the research-based curriculum, Second Step. Additionally, almost fifty percent of our schools practice Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports for teachers to further instruct students on pro-social behaviors. Teachers, support staff, and administrators also provide continual support for students to ensure that they leave our schools ready to enter college or the workforce with a set of non-violent, pro-social skills to empower them to have successful relationships in life.

However, our work does not end with prevention. We recognize that students will make mistakes and will occasionally exercise poor judgment in how they interact with their peers. When this occurs, staff members can refer to our districts School Safety Manual which addresses student behaviors from

physical aggression to bullying and harassment. In fact, our district's policy on bullying and harassment (8307) is one of the most comprehensive policies in the state. Not only do we provide support for the victim of bullying or harassment, but we also provide counseling and behavior modification strategies for children who continually bully others.

While we have multiple preventative and reactive strategies to deal with violent behavior, there is no substitute in the school system for the role of a parent at home. Parents can further support school efforts and thus increase school safety by following a few simple tips.

- Use consistent, predictable discipline at home. Avoid exposing students to any physical violence.
- Limit the amount of exposure to violent TV, movies, and video games.
- Praise children for being kind, compassionate, and empathetic.
- Spend engaging time with your children. Talk to them, question them, and listen to them.

Increasing school safety is a team effort for all members of a school system, students, and parents. However, by working together we can raise caring and compassionate young people. Therefore, we ask that all members of the community join as we work to provide a safe learning environment for all New Hanover County students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Markley  
Superintendent



# New Hanover County Schools

## Anti-Bullying Policy in New Hanover County Schools

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." This is the adage many of us grew up reciting when a peer put us down, picked on us, or simply hurt our feelings. However, today's student experiences bullying and harassment in a much different format, and it can be so hurtful that this anti-social behavior can disrupt a student's educational experience.

As a result of this hindrance to the learning process, New Hanover County Schools has adopted Policy 8307: Prohibition against Bullying and Harassment. This comprehensive policy covers all types of bullying behavior, from physical, to verbal/emotional, to the more recent phenomenon - cyber bullying. No level of persistent bullying behavior, whether it occurs in the cafeteria of one of our schools or on a child's Facebook wall, will be tolerated in New Hanover County Schools because we recognize how significantly this impacts a child's ability to learn.

Policy 8307 also empowers students and parents with the necessary information to know what to do if their child is feeling bullied. All building administrators and student support staff are trained annually in investigating claims of bullying and harassment. Furthermore, this policy also addresses a continuum of consequences that may be put into place for the perpetrator, and a continuum of supports for the victim. It is our ultimate goal, however, not to simply provide a consequence for this behavior, but to challenge this type of distorted thinking in students and correct the behavior itself.

However, preventing bullying and harassment is a team effort, especially when it comes to preventing cyber bullying. It is imperative that parents become aware of the technology their students are using and that they monitor their activity. While

schools can and do have policies regarding cell phone use in the building, parents are ultimately the entity responsible for the purchase and maintenance of this type of personal technological device.

To help protect your student, follow some of these simple tips:

- **Monitor all cell phone and computer activity. Never allow a student to have a computer or cell phone in his/her bedroom at night.**
- **Remove technology if your student is using it inappropriately.**
- **Establish open communication with your child about the text messages, pictures, Facebook messages, etc. he/she writes and receives.**
- **Provide a good example for your child. Never gossip about someone else around him/her, never put someone down, and never use the Internet to harass someone.**
- **If your child reports he is being bullied, or if you suspect he/she is being bullied, report this information immediately to your school counselor or administrator.**

By working with school personnel and understanding that all teachers and staff members desire that every student have a successful educational experience, we can decrease bullying behavior and help all of our students have an enjoyable and memorable school experience.



UNIVERSITY of  
NORTH CAROLINA  
WILMINGTON

Dear Community Members,



The University of North Carolina Wilmington proudly welcomes you to campus to participate in one of our many lifelong learning programs, to attend concerts, conferences, lectures and art exhibitions, to bring your children to our youth programs, and to support the

Seahawks during athletic competitions. Our campus is much more than a collection of students, faculty and staff; it is a community of neighbors, friends, visitors, businesses, government agencies and non-profit organizations. You are an integral part of the UNCW community, and your participation in our programs is one reason why we offer so many diverse educational options.

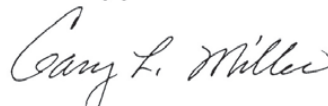
Campus safety is extremely important to every member of our community. Whether you are on campus every day, or only visit us once in a while, we want your experience at UNCW to be a safe one. We continuously evaluate and update security measures, which include UNCW Police, emergency call boxes, security cameras, lighting, sirens and quick alert messaging systems. Last year, the university installed 100 new security cameras, bringing the campus total to more than 700. UNCW also maintains a secure-door access system that has the capability of instantly locking-down buildings from a remote location.

The Chancellor's Safety and Security Council sponsors a number of initiatives, such as bi-annual symposiums to review safe practices and present new safety resources. The UNCW Alert system includes nearly 20 different communication tools that the university may deploy during an emergency. Each year, thousands of students, faculty and staff participate in safety workshops on topics ranging from self defense and online security to hurricane preparedness and flu prevention.

UNCW also operates a website designed to quickly and easily provide our entire community with essential safety and security information. The site, [www.uncw.edu/emergencyandsafety](http://www.uncw.edu/emergencyandsafety), is a wonderful resource for students, faculty, staff, parents, neighbors and other community members. I encourage you to visit the site to review the information available, including several "safety tip" videos.

As these ongoing efforts show, UNCW remains deeply committed to providing a safe environment for all members of our campus community – neighbors, visitors, parents and friends as well as students, faculty and staff. I want to thank you for your interest in UNCW, and your support of our programs and services. I welcome your comments or concerns. Please feel free to contact me at [chancellor@uncw.edu](mailto:chancellor@uncw.edu).

Sincerely yours,



Gary L. Miller  
Chancellor  
University of North Carolina Wilmington



# Safety by the Numbers

One of UNC Wilmington's strategic goals is to provide a safe campus for learning, living and working. Each year, efforts to improve campus safety continue.

**1 StormReady University:** UNC Wilmington was the first university in the state to earn this National Weather Service designation.

**2 sirens,** now located on DePaolo and Schwartz halls, will sound in emergencies such as a tornado threat or a criminal incident of extreme nature.

**34 sworn police officers, 5 full-time security guards** and numerous support personnel comprise the UNCW police department.

**151 emergency call boxes and telephones** with direct access to UNCW Police are operational. More are under construction.

**85 additional card readers** were installed as part of the university's secure-door access system, which has the capability to instantly lock-down a building from a remote location.

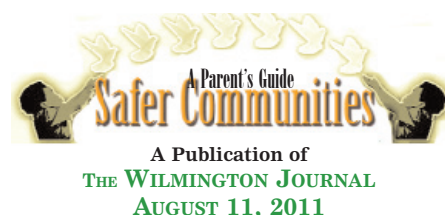
**100 additional security cameras** were installed as a part of an ongoing, comprehensive camera plan for all residence halls.

**Bi-Annual Safety Symposium** where the campus community convenes to discuss safety and learn about safe practices and new resources.

# 888.657.5751

phone number is the toll-free extension of the UNCW Emergency Information Hotline

UNC Wilmington is committed to and will provide equality of educational and employment opportunity. Questions regarding program access may be directed to the Compliance Officer, UNCW Chancellor's Office, 910.962.3000, Fax 910.962.3483.



# Understanding Today's Drugs

## AIMED AT PARENTS

Today's marijuana is up to 12 times more potent than the marijuana available in our high school days, due to better growing techniques. One "joint" smoked by your kids today is equal to 12 "joints" smoked by you 25 years ago. Think about that before you dismiss smoking pot as harmless.

Parents often ask how to tell if their kids will use drugs. It is human nature that people will associate with whom they have things in common. Look at your kids' friends. If their friends are honest, hardworking, and of good moral character, then chances are your child is also. If their friends are not, chances are your child isn't either. Know your kids and their friends; be a parent.

These statements are lies. "Every kid experiments with drugs. It is part of growing up, they'll grow out of it." Not all kids experiment. But many adults aren't tough enough to be parents. Stop trying to be a friend to your kids and be a parent. Kids have enough friends; parents are limited. If you're old enough to be a parent, act like one. This statement is a lie, "Kids will drink alcohol anyway, I might as well provide it and control the setting." The two most important factors in why kids try drugs are the perceived risk of the drug and how socially accepted the drug is. Set the example. If you're old enough to be a parent, act like one.

Recognize drug paraphernalia for what it is. Things are not always what they seem. It's understandable why a baby needs a pacifier, not your 14 year old daughter. Everyone uses dryer sheets while doing laundry, but why are there so many in your son's room? Water & air aren't the only things put inside small balloons. Bath salts might make for a relaxing soak in your tub, but they have no use in a child's bedroom or car. If you're old enough to be a parent, act like one.

**Source: Steven R. Peterson, Special Agent (SA) of the United States Department of Justice, the Drug Enforcement Administration, President N.C. Narcotics Association.**

## THESE ARE NOT YOUR AVERAGE BATH SALTS

There is a new designer drug known as "bath salts" that has become increasingly popular among adult and teen drug users. Bath salts have also become increasingly dangerous. The news media have cited numerous reports involving bath salt overdose incidents that have resulted in emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and severe psychotic episodes. A few of these incidents have also resulted in violent outbursts, self-inflicted wounds, and suicides. Many poison centers across the U.S. have reported growing numbers of calls related to the synthetic stimulant.

- **What are bath salts?**

MDPV, or methylenedioxypropylvalerone, is a synthetic stimulant that produces effects similar in part to amphetamine, Ecstasy, and methamphetamine. MDPV has no approved medical use in the United States. It is one of the primary stimulant ingredients in the bath salt products. It has also been sold on the Internet as a "research Chemical." Illegal street chemists are creating newer pyrovalerone derivatives in an attempt to circumvent legislative changes to ban bath salts.

- **Why are they called bath salts?**

It is misleading to call MDPV bath salts. These items are also being sold under the guise of plant food, toilet bowl cleaner, stain remover and insecticide. They are sold in powder form in small plastic or foil packages. Common street names

include star dust, pure ivory, lady bubbles, meowmeow, vanilla sky, and Hurricane Charlie. Don't be fooled, unlike Epsom Salt these are not bath salts you would likely use in your bath.

- **What do you experience when you take bath salts?**

MDPV produces central nervous system stimulation, paranoia, Ecstasy-like hallucinations. It also increases blood pressure, agitation, increased pulse, and irritability. The rate of suicide risk increases among MDPV users, even after the stimulatory effects of the drugs have worn off. There is no test to detect this drug. The only way to know if someone has taken MDPV is for them to tell you they have.

- **How are they taken?**

MDPV is most commonly encountered as a fine white or off-white powder that can be inhaled (snorted), ingested (swallowed) smoked, or inject-

ed (solution). Users of this drug are known to mix it with drink products and food items.

- **Are bath salts illegal?**

Bath salts were legally being sold in convenience stores, truck stops, head shops and on the internet for \$15 to \$60 depending on the quantity and the brand. These items were sold with the intent that they were "not for human consumption." Due to the vast concerns for the public safety, Senate Bill 7 was approved by the General Assembly on March 25th, 2011 to combat the legal sale of bath salts. Effective, June 1, 2011, General Statute 90-89(5) was rewritten to add Mephedrone, Methylenedioxypropylvalerone and certain derivatives of 2-Amino-1-Phenyl-1-Propanone, and synthetic Cannabinoids to the list of controlled substances.

**Source: Epic Tactical Intelligence Bulletins, WebMD**

# Understanding Today's Drugs

## PRESCRIPTION FOR TROUBLE

The ever-increasing number of drug arrests, stemming from the illegal possession of prescription medication has reached epidemic proportions. The New Hanover County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Division compiles statistical data monthly and yearly with respect to the seizure of prescription medication. In 2007 the Division seized 737 prescription dosage units; 2010 saw a rise of more than 400% with 3749 prescription dosage units seized.

National studies and published reports indicate that the abuse of prescription medication to get "high" is a growing concern across the United States. Studies indicate

that young people between the ages of 12 and 17 abuse prescription medications more than any illicit drug except marijuana, more than cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine combined.

The common misconception amongst teens is that using prescription medication to get "high" is somehow safer than using street drugs. It is clear that prescription drugs when prescribed and taken under the direction of a medical provider afford many benefits. It is just as apparent that prescription medication ingested by a person for whom it was not intended, can be just as dangerous as illicit drugs. When it comes to con-

suming prescription medication for which you are not the prescribed recipient, your body will not differentiate prescription medication prepared in a pristine laboratory environment or the less sanitary conditions in which illicit street drugs are prepared.

The results of abusing prescription medication provide no level of increased safety to the abuser. There is no guarantee that the "high" achieved will end by the abuser's gently being placed on a cushion of tranquility. To the contrary, many abusers have crashed face first to the floor with the cold feeling of ceramic tile being the last thing they have felt.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

Here are several suggestions to prevent prescription medication abuse.

- Safeguard all prescription medications at home. Monitor quantities and control access.
- Set clear rules for family members about drug use, including not sharing medication and following the medical provider's advice.
- Be a good role model by exhibiting responsible behavior when taking prescription medications.
- Properly conceal and dispose of old or unneeded medications.
- Ask friends and family to safeguard their prescription medications as well.
- Report abuse to healthcare providers, social services or the appropriate law enforcement agency.

For more information concerning the abuse of prescription medications or disposal of medications refer to the following websites.

[www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com)  
[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

*\*Portions of this article were obtained from the Office of National Drug Control Policy Executive Office of the President / Prescription for Danger January 2008. Preventing Prescription Drug Abuse-Parents*  
[www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com)

**NOTE: The New Hanover County Sheriff's Department provided all information for "Understanding Today's Drugs" .**



# Understanding Gangs

## WHAT IS A GANG?

- Organized group of three or more people who interact together to the exclusion of others and participate in illegal activity, such as violent crime, drug dealing, and/or firearm trafficking
- Commonly has a name, leader(s), and identifying signs
- Typically claims a territory or an area
- Uses distinctive graffiti or “tags” to mark territory (Some tags are not gang signs).
- May fight rival gangs for control
- Seeks to intimidate other youth and community members
- Usually based on race or ethnicity, but gang takes prevalence over race/ethnicity, background, neighborhood, and even family
- Primary age group 12 to 30
- Average age 18
- 9 year-olds have been recruited
- Involves an “initiation”, which is usually brutal and may include random acts of violence. In the case of females, may involve sexual acts

## WHY DO KIDS JOIN GANGS?

- To fill basic needs not met elsewhere
- To obtain money and material things
- To find a “family”
- To achieve self-esteem and self-worth
- To find “protection” from physical harm in schools and neighborhoods
- To gain “importance” and recognition

Source: *New Hanover County Sheriff's Department*

**GETTING OUT OF A GANG ONCE A PERSON HAS JOINED IS DIFFICULT AND MAY BE FATAL.**

# Understanding Gangs

## HOW DO THEY JOIN?

Many kids are intrigued by the lifestyle of the gangsters and are drawn to them like magnets. They will “hang” with them constantly, trying to prove their allegiance. They may be asked to commit crimes to “prove” themselves. Once they have proven themselves, they will be initiated.

Initiation is “a rite, ceremony, or instructions with which one is made a member of a sect or society, or is vested with a particular function or status.”

Gangs use the initiation rite as a means of determining if the inductee is mentally and physically strong enough to be worthy of membership. In other words they don’t want a member who will run at the first sign of trouble or one who whines about what his/her orders or instructions are.

Gang members frequently refer to joining a gang as “**Blood in - Blood out**” - meaning to join, you may have to shed either your own blood or the blood of someone else.

Street gangs use a variety of acts of initiation to induct an individual into full membership.

These acts may include one or more of the following:

- **“Beat in” or “jump in”** - The inductee must prove him/her self by enduring a severe beating by a pre-determined number of members for a pre-determined number of minutes.

During this act the members use fists, kicks and stomps, or even clubs to beat the new member. This is frequently called an “act of love.” It is also, in many cases, an act of extreme violence. The new member at best may survive with broken ribs, cuts and contusions, or maybe a broken jaw. However the beating can be so severe that the person could suffer permanent injury or even death. Some gangs have rules they are allowed to hit the victim anywhere on the body, while others do not allow blows to the head. The only reason the blows to the head are not permitted is so the beating can be easier to hide. The inductee is not allowed to block any blows. If he/she survives the beating, he/she becomes a member of the gang.

- **Armed robbery** - inductee(s) commit the crime of armed robbery and frequently shoot the victim(s) for no reason.

- **Drive-by shooting**

- **Assault** on an innocent victim

- **Rape** an innocent victim

- **“Blessed In”**----Occasionally, a prospective gang member will not have to endure any of the normal gang initiation rituals. He or she may be “blessed in.” This may be

the result of the prospect’s reputation as one who is worthy of gang membership or he may be a family member of a gang member who has vouched for his worthiness and loyalty.

- **“Sexed In”** ----Female inductees are frequently “sexed in” by having intercourse with multiple members of the gang. This is sometimes used in lieu of being beaten in. It has been reported that females, on occasion, have been required to consent to sex with a person known to be HIV positive.

- **Murder** - The inductee is required to kill an innocent victim, a rival gang member, or even a police officer.

### Leaving The Street Gang

Getting out of a gang can be as violent as joining. Many gangs require lifetime memberships.

Many street gangs require the person, wanting to depart from the gang’s way of life to endure a “beat out.” This beating frequently is more severe and more injurious to the member than the beating he/she may have taken to join.

Source: *Robert Walker’s Gangs or Us*

***Denial Is Dangerous - You have the power to prevent gangs from establishing themselves in our community and ensnaring our children.***

# Common Gang Identifiers

## Gang-style clothing and dress:

Gang members may use a particular style of dress to identify with a particular gang, set clique, or crew. This might include clothing or bandanas worn only in certain colors that are representative of a gang.



Other clothing that might be worn by gang members could include pants worn well below the waist (sagging); gang-themed T-Shirts with pictures of gang members, prison scenes, graffiti, or slogans; two or three-toned bead necklaces; sports clothing of specific teams; or colored fabric belts, occasionally with a metal buckle that includes the initials of the gang.

However, gang clothing trends change and may be different from one place to another, so clothing alone may not be enough to indicate a child's affiliation with a particular gang, though it can be a clue.

## Colors:

Many gangs use one or more colors as a symbol to represent their gang. These colors may be worn on shirts, bandanas, multi-colored or single-colored beads, belts, hats, shoes, shoelaces, headbands, jewelry, and other items.



## Symbols and numbers:

Some symbols and numbers may have special

significance within the gang culture in a particular area. A few common symbols from some of the United States are star (five- and six-pointed), crowns, pitchforks (pointing up or down), three dots in a triangle, and numbers. Contact your local police or sheriff's department to get specific information on the meaning of unidentifiable symbols or numbers that you may see in graffiti or clothing in your area.



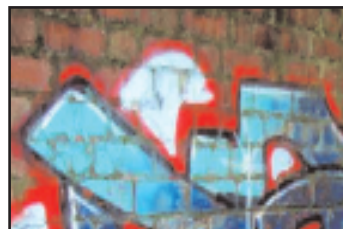
## Sports items:

Letters, color, or symbols may have a specific gang meaning in local street-gang culture, such as Kansas City Royals (KC=Killer Crips). Sports items may be purchased in a nontraditional color to correspond with the gang's colors or may be altered with graffiti or extra symbols or writing.



## Graffiti:

Gangs use graffiti to mark their territory, brag about their reputation, mourn fallen members, and threaten or challenge rival gangs. For this reason, graffiti can be very dangerous and should be removed as soon as possible. Youths who are participating in graffiti may have items such as spray



paints, spray paint plastic tips, wide tipped markers, or sketchbooks with graffiti works in progress and may have paint on their clothing, backpacks, or other items.

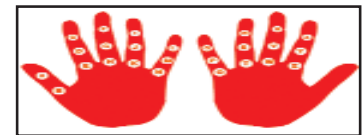
## Gang-influenced music and movies:

Gangsta/gangster rap is a style of rap music characterized by violent, tough-talking lyrics that glorify street-gang culture. Many popular movies also focus on street gangs and their activities. Youths may show their interest in gangs through fascination with music and movies that portray street-gang culture.



## Hand signs:

Some gangs use specific hand gestures to communicate their affiliation with the gang and issue threats or challenges to rival gangs.



## Tattoos:

Tattoos are used to show an individual's loyalty to his/her gang. These tattoos often include the name, initials, or symbols of the specific gang and may be found on the hands, neck, face, chest, or arms.



*Note: The graphics used as gang identifiers are for effects only. They do not depict actual gang identifiers.*

Source: *New Hanover County Sheriff's Department and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*



# Girl Gangs



## SOME JOIN OR FORM “GIRLS ONLY” GANGS WHILE OTHERS JOIN THE TRADITIONAL MALE GANGS

When you think of gangs and gang members do you ever think of girls being a part of the gang scene? Probably not. Although they have always been associated with the male members as girl friends, wives, sex objects or “go-fers,” not many extensive studies have been made to determine to what extent females are involved in the gang culture.

As more and more females become involved with the gangs, they are making their presence known. Some join or form “girls only” gangs while others join the traditional male gangs and they have been documented as participating in all of the crimes and acts of violence associated with their male counterparts.

Why do girls join this often times violent world of gangs? For the same reasons that the males do. They frequently do not have, or think they do not have, a home life and there is no feeling of family love, no sense of

belonging. They also join because of peer pressure, excitement, money, drugs, even fear, threats, and intimidation. The gang “family” promises to give them all the things they want or need.

Joining a gang, whether as a member of a predominantly male gang or an all female gang, can be as dangerous and hazardous for the females as the male. Most must go through the ritual of gang initiation which might consist of a beating with fists and/or clubs, an order to shoot someone, participation in an act of violence, such as assaulting or beating a rival gang member, or an innocent person. Many females are initiated by being “sexed in.” The prospective member may voluntarily agree to have sex with some or all of the male members, and, in some instances, she may be raped. A recently reported trend to being sexed in is to have sex with someone who is known to be HIV positive.

Female members frequently have one or more children, and, as they grow older, feel the need to separate themselves from the gang life. This is sometimes as difficult and dangerous as joining the gang. Many gangs have a “jumping out” ritual that may include a severe beating. This could lead to permanent injury or death.

Female gang membership is rising rapidly in many parts of the United States, and as with the male gangs, they are being encountered in small communities as well as the large cities. Everyone should be aware of this, and we should all think about programs to encourage these young girls, not only to stay out of gangs, but also to get out (Easier said than done). They need to understand that being a member of a gang will probably lead to unwanted pregnancies, injury, drug abuse, a criminal record, incarceration and, possibly, death.

Source: *Robert Walker's Gangs or Us*

***We should all think about programs to encourage these young girls, not only to stay out of gangs, but also to get out (Easier said than done).***



# Behaviors



## WARNING SIGNS OF GANG INVOLVEMENT OR ACTIVITY

There is not one tell-tale sign to distinguish a child who is in a gang from one who is not. Many of these warning signs are typical in teenagers.

- However, if a child exhibits several of the following characteristics, and you have noticed a dramatic change in personality, the child may be part of a gang.

- Admission of gang membership
- Sudden change in friends, clothing or behavior

- Dramatic change in school performance
- Excessive wearing of (or refusal to wear) one particular style or coloring of clothing or logo
- Tattoos and other body markings
- Unexplained physical injuries to hand/knuckles)
- Drawing gang symbols and using gang handwriting
- Using hand signs to communicate

with friends

- Speaking in a gang style slang
- An increase in criminal activity in your neighborhood, including loud noises, gun shots, graffiti, vandalism, home break-ins, fights, robberies, stolen autos, shoplifting, and murder.
- Gang graffiti on walls and/or possessions
- Constantly writing certain letters of the alphabet backward or crossed out.

Source: ***New Hanover County Sheriff's Department***

**Gangs are active in our communities and schools now.  
Know how to spot gang members and know what to do.  
Be a part of the solution; the problem grows on its own!**

**DENIAL IS DANGEROUS!!**



# Prevention



## WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO PREVENT GANG INVOLVEMENT

- Spend quality time with your child.
- Get involved in your child's school activities.
- Be a positive role model and set the right example.
- Know your child's friends and their families.
- Encourage good study habits.
- Teach your child how to cope with peer pressure.
- Help your child develop good conflict/resolution skills (See

[www.safeyouth.org/scripts/teens/conflict.asp](http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/teens/conflict.asp)).

- Encourage your child to participate in positive after school activities with adult supervision (recreation centers, organized sports, youth groups).
- Take action in your neighborhood (Create a neighborhood watch alliance, report and remove graffiti.).
- Talk with your child about the dangers and consequences of gang involvement. Let your child know that you don't want to see him or her hurt or arrested.

Explain to your child that he or she should **NOT**:

- Associate with gang members.
- Attend parties or social events sponsored by gangs.
- Use hand signs, symbols or language that is meaningful to gangs.
- Wear clothing, including specific colors, which may have meaning to gangs in the area.

Source: **New Hanover County Sheriff's Department**

*Remember it is not illegal to be a gang member.*

*What is illegal is the criminal activity involving gang members. Gangs do not want to be recognized or have attention drawn to them, as this interferes with their criminal activities.*

*Law enforcement **alone** cannot solve the problem. Parents and the community must play a key part in preventing gangs and ridding our community of them.*



# Bullying

## BULLIES: A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR CHILDREN

Bullying behavior may seem rather insignificant compared to kids bringing guns to school and getting involved with drugs. Bullying is often dismissed as part of growing up. But it's actually an early form of aggressive, violent behavior. Statistics show that one in four children who bully will have a criminal record before the age of 30.

Bullies often cause serious problems that schools, families, and neighbors ignore. Teasing at bus stops, taking another child's lunch money insulting and threatening, kicking, or shoving — it's all fair game to a bully. Fears and anxieties about bullies can cause some children to avoid school, carry a weapon for protection, or even commit more violent activity.

### A Word About the Victim

Although anyone can be the target of bullying behavior, the victim is often singled out because of his or her psychological traits more than his or her physical traits. A typical victim is likely to be shy, sensitive, and, perhaps, anxious or insecure. Some children are picked on for physical reasons, such as being overweight or physically small, having a disability, or belonging to a different race or religious faith.

### A Word About the Bully

Some bullies are outgoing, aggressive, active, and expressive. They get their way by brute force or open harassment. This type of bully rejects rules and regulations and needs to rebel in order to achieve a feeling of supe-

riority and security. Other bullies are more reserved and manipulative and may not want to be recognized as harassers or tormentors. They try to control by smooth-talking, saying the "right" thing at the "right" time, and lying. This type of bully gets his or her power discreetly through cunning, manipulation, and deception.

As different as these two types may seem, all bullies have some characteristics in common. They:

- are concerned with their own pleasure.
- want power over others.
- are willing to use and abuse other people to get what they want.
- feel pain inside, perhaps because of their own shortcomings.
- find it difficult to see things from someone else's perspective.

### What You Can Do

Listen to children. Encourage children to talk about school, social events, other kids in class, the walk or ride to and from school so you can identify any problems they may be having.

Take children's complaints of bullying seriously. Probing a seemingly minor complaint may uncover more severe grievances. Children are often afraid or ashamed to tell anyone that they have been bullied, so listen to their complaints.

Watch for symptoms that children may be bullying victims, such as withdrawal, a drop in grades, torn clothes, or needing extra money or supplies.

Tell the school or organization immediately if you think that your children are being bullied. Alerted caregivers can carefully monitor your children's actions and take steps to ensure your children's safety.

Work with other parents to ensure that the children in your neighborhood are supervised closely on their way to and from school.

Don't bully your children yourself, physically or verbally. Use nonphysical, consistently enforced discipline measures as opposed to ridiculing, yelling at, or ignoring, your children when they misbehave.

Help children learn the social skills they need to make friends. A confident, resourceful child who has friends is less likely to be bullied or to bully others.

Praise children's kindness toward others. Let children know that kindness is valued.

Teach children ways to resolve arguments without violent words or actions. Teach children self-protection skills — how to walk confidently, stay alert to what's going on around them, and to stand up for themselves verbally.

Provide opportunities for children to talk about bullying, perhaps when watching TV together, reading aloud, playing a game, or going to the park or a movie.

Recognize that bullies may be acting out feelings of insecurity, anger, or loneliness. If your child is a bully, help get to the root of the problem. Seek out specific strategies you can use at home from a teacher, school counselor, or child psychologist.

Source: *National Crime Prevention Council*



# Cyberbullying



## WHAT PARENTS AND CHILDREN NEED TO KNOW

Young people are using the Internet more than ever and most have Internet access from home. For many children, the Internet isn't simply a convenient way to research or a fun after school activity - it's a big part of their social life. E-mailing and chatting with friends are children's most common online activities, after studying and playing games. But like many other social situations, some kids bully other kids online.

Cyberbullying is similar to other types of bullying, except it takes place online and through text messages sent to cell phones. Cyberbullies can be classmates, online acquaintances, and even anonymous users, but most often they do know their victims.

Some examples of ways kids bully online are:

- Sending someone mean or threatening emails, instant messages, or text messages.
- Excluding someone from an instant messenger buddy list or blocking their e-mail for no reason.
- Tricking someone into revealing personal or embarrassing information and sending it to others.
- Breaking into someone's e-mail or instant message account to send cruel or untrue messages while posing as that person.
- Creating websites to make fun of another person, such as a classmate or teacher.
- Using websites to rate peers as prettiest, ugliest, etc.

Both boys and girls sometimes bully online and just as in face-to-face bullying, tend to do so in different ways. Boys more commonly bully by sending messages of a sexual nature or by threatening to fight or hurt someone. Girls more often bully by spreading rumors and by sending messages that make fun of someone or exclude others. They also tell secrets.

### The Effects of Cyberbullying

Victims of cyberbullying may experience many of the same effects as children who are bullied in person, such as a drop in grades, low self-esteem, a change in interests, or depression. However, cyberbullying can seem more extreme to its vic-

tims because of several factors:

- It occurs in the child's home. Being bullied at home can take away the place children feel most safe.
  - It can be harsher. Often kids say things online that they wouldn't say in person, mainly because they can't see the other person's reaction.
  - It can be far reaching. Kids can send e-mails, making fun of someone to their entire class or school with a few clicks, or post them on a website for the whole world to see.
  - It can be anonymous. Cyberbullies often hide behind screen names and e-mail addresses that don't identify who they are. Not knowing who is responsible for bullying messages can add to a victim's insecurity.
  - It may seem inescapable. It may seem easy to get away from a cyberbully by just getting offline, but, for some kids, not going online takes away one of the major places where they socialize.
- Cyberbullying can be a complicated issue, especially for adults who are not as familiar with using the Internet, instant messenger, or chat rooms as kids. But, like more typical forms of bullying, it can be prevented when kids know how to protect themselves and when parents are available to help.

### What Parents Can Do About Cyberbullying

Parents can help stop cyberbullying. You can start by talking to kids about the issue.

Parents can help stop cyberbullying. You can start by talking to kids about the issue and teaching them the rules below that will help prevent cyberbullying from happening to them or someone they know.

### What Kids Need to Know

- Never give out personal information online, whether in instant message profiles, chat rooms, blogs, or personal websites.
- Never tell anyone but your parents your password, even friends.
- If someone sends a mean or threatening mes-

sage, don't respond. Save it or print it out and show it to an adult.

- Never open e-mails from someone you don't know or from someone you know is a bully.
- Don't put anything online that you wouldn't want your classmates to see, even in e-mail.
- Don't send messages when you're angry. Before clicking "send," ask yourself how you would feel if you received the message.
- Help kids who are bullied online by not joining in and showing bullying messages to an adult.
- Always be as polite online as you are in person.

Since most cyberbullying takes place at home, it's important that parents know about cyberbullying and that they get involved in preventing it. Just like parents help their kids avoid inappropriate websites, they can protect them from cyberbullying.

### What Parents Can Do

- Keep your home computer in a busy area of your house.
- Set up e-mail and chat accounts with your children. Make sure that you know their screen names and passwords and that they don't include any personal information in their online profiles.
- Regularly go over their instant messenger "buddy list" with them. Ask who each person is and how your children know him or her.
- Get list of commonly used acronyms in instant messenger and chat rooms from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and post it by your computer.
- Discuss cyberbullying with your children and ask if they have ever experienced it or seen it happen to someone.
- Tell your children that you won't blame them if they are cyberbullied. Emphasize that you won't take away their computer privileges - this is the main reason kids don't tell adults when they are cyberbullied.

*Source: National Crime Prevention Council*

# National Resources

**National Alliance for Safe Schools(NASS)**  
PO Box 1068  
College Park, MD 20741  
301-935-6063

**Gang Resistance Education and Training**  
PO Box 50418  
Washington, DC 20091  
800-762-7070

**Close up Foundation**  
44 Canal Center Plaza  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
800-256-1987

**Drug Abuse Resistance Education(DARE)**  
104 Orion Court  
Cary, NC 27513  
919-319-4765

**Safe & Drug Free School Program**  
**U.S. Dept. of Education**  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

**Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse**  
PO Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849  
800-851-3420

**Outward Bound Discovery**  
117 Salem Court  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850-487-4365

**Advocate for Youth**  
2000 M Street NW, Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-419-3420

**American Association of Suicidology**  
5221 Wisconsin Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20015  
202-237-2280

**U.S. Department of Education**  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202  
800-872-5327

**National Youth Gang Center**  
PO Box 12729  
Tallahassee, FL 32317  
850-385-0600

**The National Crime Prevention Council**  
1700 K Street NW, Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-466-6272

**National Drop-Out Prevention Center**  
**Clemson University**  
205 Martin Street, Box 345111  
Clemson, SC 29634  
864-656-2599

**The National School Safety Center (NSSC)**  
4165 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 290  
Westlake Village, CA 19362  
805-373-9977

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
**Office of Justice Programs**  
810 Seventh Street NW  
Washington, DC 20531  
202-307-5911

**Boys' and Girls' Club of America**  
**National Headquarters**  
1275 Peachtree Street NE  
Atlanta, GA 30309-3506  
Phone: (404) 487-5700  
e-mail (general inquiries): info@bgca.org

**Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.**  
1600 Corporate Landing Parkway  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454  
757-563-1600

**MySistahs – Advocate for Youth**  
2000 M Street NW, Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-419-3420

**Partners for A Drug-Free America**  
405 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1601  
New York, NY 10174  
212-922-1560

**F.B.I.**  
J. Edgar Hoover Building 935 Pennsylvania  
Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20535

# State Resources

**Alcohol/Drug Council of N.C.**  
3500 Westgate Dr., Suite 204  
Durham, NC 27707  
800-688-4232

**N.C. Attorney General**  
**North Carolina Department of Justice**  
PO Box 629  
Raleigh, NC 27602  
919-716-6400

**The North Carolina Department of Juvenile  
Justice and Delinquency Prevention**  
1801 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1801  
919-733-3388

**N.C. Department of Public Instruction**  
301 North Wilmington Street  
**Raleigh, NC 27601**  
919.807.3300

**Boys' and Girls' Homes of North Carolina, Inc.**  
400 Flemington Drive  
PO Box 127  
Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450  
910-646-3043

**Center for Laws Affecting Women**  
**North Carolina**  
2090 Royall Drive  
Winston-Salem, NC 27106  
336-759-2600

**N.C. Family Health Resource Line**  
Post Office Box 13827  
Raleigh, NC 27709  
800-367-2229

**Citizen Services, North Carolina Office**  
**Department of Health and Human Services**  
325 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
800-662-7030

**CARELINE**  
NC Office of Citizen Services  
325 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 2603  
800-662-7030

**Girl Scout Council of Coastal Carolina**  
108 Lockhaven Drive  
PO Box 1735  
Goldsboro, NC 27533-1735  
800-558-9297

**Governor's Office of Citizen Affairs**  
121 West Jones Street  
116 West Jones Street (mail)  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
800-662-7952

**MADD-NC State**  
4208 Six Forks Road  
Suite 333  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
800-248-6233

**Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)**  
104 Orion Court  
Cary, NC 27513  
919-319-4765

**Florence Crittenton Services**  
1300 Blythe Blvd.  
PO Box 36392  
Charlotte, NC 28236  
800-448-0024

**AIDS Hotline**  
800-342-2437

**AIDS Hotline in Espanol**  
800-344-7432

**AIDS Hotline for the Hearing Impaired**  
800-243-7889

**Alcohol and Drug Helpline**  
800-252-6465

**Child Find America Hotline**  
800-426-5678

**Cocaine Hotline**  
800-662-4367

**Victim Injustice Services Hotline**  
800-826-6200

**Adolescence Services, Adolescence Placement**  
800-247-1696

# Local Resources

**New Hanover County Public Schools**

6410 Carolina Beach Road  
Wilmington, NC 28412  
910-763-5431

**City-County Gang Intervention Task Force**

507 McRae Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
910-343-3699

**Wilmington Police Department**

615 Bess Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
910-343-3600

**New Hanover County Sheriff's Department**

3950 Juvenile Center Road  
Castle Hayne, NC 28429  
910-798-4206

**Coastal Horizons Center, Inc.**

Also known as First Call for Help and  
Crisis Line Services --Serving New Hanover,  
Pender & Brunswick Counties  
New Hanover Co. - (910) 392.7408  
Pender Co. - (910) 379.0497  
Brunswick Co. - 1-800-672-2903  
Latino Hotline - (910) 527.1034

**Education Alternatives for Suspended Youth  
(Program EASY)**

719 Walnut Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
910-772-2105

**Communities in Schools of New Hanover  
County**

910-762-2611

**Wilmington Treatment Center**

2520 Troy Drive  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
910-762-2727

**Community Boys' and Girls' Club**

901 Nixon Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
910-762-1252

**Boy Scouts of America, Cape Fear Council**

110 Longstreet Drive  
PO Box 7156  
Wilmington, NC 28406  
910-395-1100

**Brigade Boys' and Girls' Club**

2759 Vance St.  
Wilmington, NC 28412  
(910) 392-0747

**Girls' Inc.**

1502 Castle St.  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
(910) 763-6674

**Camp Eckerd**

1086 Susie Sandhill Rd.  
Elizabethtown, NC 28337  
(910) 588-4407

**Catholic Social Ministries**

4006 Princess Place Dr.  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
(910) 251-8130

**Saint Mary's Social Ministry**

412 Ann Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
910-762-5491

**Wilmington Interdenominational  
Ministerial Alliance**

910-264-0732

**Child Advocacy and Parenting Place  
Exchange Club Center, Inc.**

1401 S. 39th St.  
P. O. Box 4305  
Wilmington, NC 28403

**Cape Fear Interfaith Alliance**

c/o 4006 Princess Place  
Wilmington, NC 28406  
910-251-8130

**Alpha Omega Health, Inc.**

4875 New Centre Dr.  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
(910) 792-9889

**Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)  
(formerly Community Mediation Center)**

108-C Cinema Drive  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
[www.theadrcenter.org](http://www.theadrcenter.org)

**Crime Stoppers of the Cape Fear Area**

20 North Fourth Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
910-763-3888

**Wilmington Health Access for Teens (WHAT)**

4005 Oleander Dr.  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
(910) 790-9949  
[www.whatswhat.org](http://www.whatswhat.org)

**District Attorney's Office-5th District**

316 Princess Street, Suite 543  
Wilmington, NC 28402  
910-341-1400

**H.O.L.A.**

(Helping our Latin Americans)  
Post Office Box 483  
Wilmington, NC 28402  
910-815-3731

**Clinica Latina**

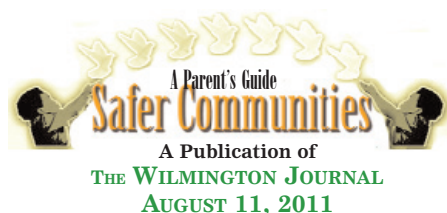
(provides professional services in Spanish  
and in a comfortable setting for Latinos  
and their families)  
(910)-343-0145  
(910)-524-1034

**Amigos International**

C/O Centro Latino  
1516 Market St.  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
(910) 341-0007  
[www.amigos@bizec.rr.com](mailto:www.amigos@bizec.rr.com)

**Good Shepherd Clinic**

811 Martin St.  
Wilmington, NC  
(910) 763.4424



# Local Resources

**Cape Fear Literacy Council**

1012 South 17th St.  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
(910) 251.0911  
www.cfliteracy.org

**Job Corps**

201 N. Front St., Suite 714  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
(910) 762.9704 or  
(910) 431.3963

**YouthBuild Wilmington Program**

1524 South 16th St. (Wilmington Housing  
Authority Office)  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
(910) 341.7700, ext. 260

**Kids Making It Woodworking Program**

15 South Water Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
(910) 763.6001

**Dreams of Wilmington, Inc.**

515 Ann Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
910-772-1501

**Family Services of the Lower Cape Fear**

4018-C Shipyard Blvd.  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
910-794-2100

**LifeCare & Counseling Center**

1414 Physicians Drive  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
www.hospiceandlifecarecenter.org  
Contact: Marty Hernandez (Children & Youth  
Grief Counselor)  
(910) 524.1872

**NAACP - New Hanover County Branch**

PO Box 2199  
Wilmington, NC 28402-2198

**Circle of Courage Support Services**

3205 Randall Parkway  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
(910) 338-0001

**New Hanover County Community  
Action, Inc.**

507 North 6th Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
910-762-1177

**New Hanover County Partnership  
for Children**

3001-B Wrightsville Ave.  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
910-815-3731

**The Downtown Med Center**

119 Chestnut St.  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
(910) 762-5588

**Community Health Center**

925 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
(910) 343-0270 or 254-4690

**The Carousel Center**

2805 Market St.  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
Ph: (910) 254-9898

**Department of Social Services**

1650 Greenfield St.  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
(910) 798-3400

**Leading into New Communities (LINC)**

907 Castle St.  
P. O. Box 401  
Wilmington, NC 28402  
(910) 762-4635

**The Soul Focus**

5917 Grace St., Ste. 200  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
(910) 343-8438

**Nar-Anon Family Group**

2131 S. 17th Street  
Wilmington, NC  
910-791-3640

**The Lawson's House**

(910) 397-7685 or (910) 789-0107  
www.thelawsonshouse.com

**Southeastern Center Access**

1-866-875-1757

**North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation**

1802 S. 15th Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
(910) 251-5710

**Group Homes****The Yahweh Center, Inc.**

5000 Lambs Pathway  
Castle Hayne, NC 28429  
Ph: (910) 675-3533  
Fax: (910) 675-3405  
Email: [croberts@hawehcenter.org](mailto:croberts@hawehcenter.org)

**Family Focused LLC**

7103 Saginaw Ct.  
Wilmington, NC 28411  
(910) 686-7267

**MIMS Manor**

621 Plymouth Dr.  
Wilmington, NC  
(910) 796-9040



# Partners



New Hanover  
County Sheriff's  
Office  
3950 Juvenile Center  
Road  
Castle Hayne, NC  
28429



Wilmington  
Police  
Department  
615 Bess Street  
Wilmington, NC  
28401  
910-343-3600



New Hanover  
County Schools  
6410 Carolina Beach Rd.  
Wilmington, NC 28412  
910-763-5431



University of  
North Carolina  
Wilmington  
Toll-free extension  
of the UNCW  
Emergency  
Information  
Hotline  
888-657-5751



For additional copies of the Safer Communities Parent's Guide,  
contact : The Wilmington Journal, 412 S. 7th Street Wilmington, NC 28402, (910) 762-5502  
Download at [www.wilmingtonjournal.com](http://www.wilmingtonjournal.com)

28

