



# TAAC NEWS

NOVEMBER 2015

A monthly newsletter brought to you by Crimestoppers GNO Teen Ambassadors Against Crime



## 2015-2016 TEEN AMBASSADORS AGAINST CRIME

### *Leadership Challenge Day*



Ambassadors were in for a big surprise during their Leadership Challenge Day. Activities included trust walks, memory tests, spaghetti towers, hula races and a safety themed scavenger hunt. Thanks to Board members and supporters Les Nettleton, Christine Vinson and Jason Bargas, teens engaged in fun, interactive activities that taught important lessons on leadership, teamwork, communication and of course, using their voice as teen ambassadors to promote safety within their schools and communities.

Kudos to Board member, Pam Schafer, for ending the day on a sweet note by treating everyone to fresh beignets and hot beverages from Morning Call.

### *Who Can You Turn To?*

It's always a learning experience when there's a TAAC meeting! The dialog was intense when staff from the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, Lauren Ridings and Allison Morgado, spoke with Ambassadors about Victim Services and the city's Diversion Program. Questions were plentiful and Ambassadors walked away knowledgeable of the rights and complimentary services offered to victims of violence and domestic abuse.

In Crimestoppers fashion, Ambassadors were asked to leave their meeting feedback anonymously. One student wrote, "The topics were very useful, especially for first time, nonviolent crimes for people to renew their life and get back on track. I also learned that the DA does a plethora of work to see to it that victims not only get a sense of security but justice as well."



### *Lasting Impressions*

It's no secret that Crimestoppers was honored to partner with our event sponsor, First NBC Bank, to host the 1st annual Teen Peace Congress in October. Ambassadors were more than thrilled to serve as table moderators. We anticipated a nice turnout with usable feedback from all attendees. What we had received was a great turnout with sincere responses from teens voicing their concerns with the increase of crime in their neighborhoods and collaborating on solutions. One attendee was even offered an internship with U.S. Attorney, Kenneth Polite. Many teens expressed their interests to attend future events like the Teen Peace Congress so they can continue to learn effective ways to take a stand against crime. During their recent TAAC meeting, Ambassadors spoke of their excitement to host another Congress sooner than later.



### *President's Message:*

As we celebrate this holiday season, please remember to celebrate responsibly. Driving under the influence is no laughing matter and one that can have lasting effects. Crimestoppers reminds you to have a game plan for partying. Always have a transportation plan that includes safe passage. Use a designated driver who does not consume any alcohol or narcotics. Uber, taxis, parents or as a last resort, some of our local law enforcement agencies offer safe ride home during the holiday season.

From your Crimestoppers family, we are wishing you a safe and blessed holiday full of love, laughter and peace. Thank you for being part of our extended family!

Mrs. Darlene

