

SECURE THE CALL NEWS



Recycling cell phones to help the community

Issue #6

SECURE THE CALL LAUNCHES PERMANENT BARREL DRIVE

In its never-ending effort to collect more and more used cell phones, Secure the Call kicked off a program to add 1,000 new permanent barrels to collect used and unwanted cell phones that are turned into 911 emergency-only phones.

Mike Morgan, President, Founder and Head Volunteer of Secure the Call, launched the program by making a plea to local grocery stores, cell phone stores, Police Stations, Libraries, to host a barrel. According to Morgan, "we can't grow the program without the support of the local communities and businesses. Hosting a barrel is easy and worthwhile. And, it's always free. We even arrange for the shipping costs to get us back the phones when the barrel fills up."

Phones go back into local communities through 300 Community Partners that include Senior Citizen Centers, Battered Women Shelters and Police and Sheriff Departments. Secure the Call never charges its partners for the phones it provides and counts on the community to supply the used phones needed to make the program a success. Additionally, Secure the Call is developing programs for the American Red Cross and the AARP, both of which will increase the need for phones coming into the program.

Signing up to host a barrel is as easy as calling and asking to participate. Secure the Call will send you a barrel, a barrel stand and a customized sign with your business or organizations logo.

For additional information or to order a barrel, please call Secure the Call at 800-813-0344.

200 COMPANIES TAKE STC'S DRIVE PROGRAM FOR A RIDE

This last EARTH DAY was particularly important for us. Property Managers of over 200 office buildings from Boston to California participated in the initial testing of our one-month drive program, returning upwards of a thousand phones to be reused as free 911 emergency access instruments. We obviously can't mention everyone here, but properties managed by

CBRE, Transwestern, Boston Properties and Ackridge were all well represented in the program. The Secure the Call barrels were prominently displayed in the lobbies of each of the buildings for the month of April. Property managers sent notices and flyers through e-mail to each of their tenants, and kept tenants posted on the deadlines for the program.

STC AND ARLINGTON COUNTY GIVE PHONES TO SENIORS

Every year for the past six years, Secure the Call and Arlington County (Virginia) have partnered up to give away free 911 emergency-only phones to Seniors at the yearly Arlington County Fair.

Among the many booths at the fair, Arlington County's Witness Protection Program stands out as a must-see for seniors to stop by and get up to speed on what the county is doing to make

the neighborhood a safer place to live.

This year, Arlington County gave away over 40 STC phones to seniors and women in an unsafe domestic situation.

According to Arlington County program director Laura Perez, "Once again we relied on Secure the Call to provide us with the phones we need and once again Secure the Call came thru for the seniors of Arlington County. We know the

HELP US BY HOSTING A BARREL!

Secure the Call needs your help. Hosting a barrel is easy and it's always FREE. We pay for everything, including all shipping costs.



If you know of a great place to host a barrel, give us a call at 301 891-2900. After you've found the location, we'll do all the work of collecting the phones.

Thanks for your help!

The success of the program was underscored by the desire of all the participants to do it all over again next year.



program relies on volunteers and hope that the business community will continue to support the great work that they do."



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I recently received a

startling email from a woman in Bensalem, PA. She was out with her husband and 40-year-old daughter for Mother's Day dinner. On the way, the daughter decided to stop by an ATM for cash. While there she suffered a heart attack and collapsed. No one had a cell phone to call for an ambulance. The daughter died on the spot.

A few days later, her mother came across one of our cell phone collection barrels. She called me requesting one of our free 911 phones—too late to save her daughter, but she now wanted to be prepared for the future.

The same week I received a call from the State's Attorney's office in Westminster MD. He told me of a recent domestic violence case. A woman was alone in her house when her boyfriend, preparing to attack her, cut through her phone line to isolate her. He had trashed her cell phone the month before. Fortunately, she had gotten one of our emergency 911 phones the previous week. She called, and the police quickly arrived. The woman was unharmed.

The moral of these stories? Our mission is critical. These free 911 phones really are very important. They can be life-savers!

Mike Morgan

GETTING PHONES READY FOR 911 USE

What happens to the phones that are donated to Secure the Call? How is the existing information cleared from the phones that are come in? These are two questions we get on a daily basis. Let's take a look.

In general, Secure the Call goes to great lengths to wipe out the information on all phones that are received by our organization. We know that the public at large is counting on us to protect the information that's still on the phone when they drop their phone in one of our collection barrels.

For starters, all SIM chips are removed from the phones (those that contain a SIM chip) and shredded on-site.

We have two methods for removing the information that resides on the phones themselves. For most models, we're able to hook the phone up to a computer and wipe out the information electronically. The software we have digitally resets the phone back to its original factory settings while in the process it erases all previous information.

For the models that we don't have the software available we use a hand reset method. All phones come with factory instructions (this is not generally known to the public) that you can access thru a back-door code (providing you know the codes which we do). Getting into the back-door section of the phone allows us to wipe out all information and factory reset the phone back to it's original settings.

In some instances, we cannot wipe out the information. When this occurs, the phone is sent to a company in the Philadelphia area that specializes in recycling materials from old computers, electronic devices and cell phones.

Our final action to assure that the information is wiped off is a hand test of all phones. If, for any reason, we have not completely wiped off the previous owner's info, the phone will not be given back to the public. It would be included in our shipment to Philly for proper disposal.



SHOUT OUTS

Secure the Call is happy to welcome the following organizations to the program!

City of Lafayette Police Department Lafayette, CO
 City of Lafayette Senior Services Lafayette, CO
 Sayreville Office on Aging and Senior Citizens Center Sayreville, NJ
 Montgomery County Women's Center Elkins Park, PA
 Prince William County of Public Works Prince William, VA
 First Helping at DC Central Soup Kitchen in Washington, DC
 St. Patrick's Social Ministry Bay Shore, NY
 Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin Madison, WI
 Refugio Police Department Refugio, TX
 Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County Houston, TX
 Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless Washington, DC



STC is happy to have provided free emergency-only cell phones to the following organizations in the past 30 days:

Austin Police Department Austin, TX
 Papan's Landing Senior Center Topeka, KS
 South Pasadena Police Department South Pasadena, CA
 City of Thornton - Police Department Thornton, CO
 Cherry Hill Police Department Cherry Hill, NJ
 Carroll County State Attorney Westminster, MD
 Arlington County Victim Witness Program Arlington, VA
 AARP - Driver's Safety Program Mead, WA
 AARP - Driver's Safety Program Grand Rapids, MN
 Services for Older Citizens Grosse Pointe, MI
 Jasper County Community Services Rennselaer, IN
 Saline County Sheriff Salina, KS
 YWCA Family Violence Prevention Wheeling, WV
 San Bernardino County Sheriff San Bernardino, CA
 City of Boulder - Senior Services Boulder, CO