

STILL BE A REAL  
GOODYEAR

# POSITIVELY KNOW VIOLENCE

## PEACE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD





Dear Parents,

Every second somewhere in this country a violent crime is reported to a police or sheriff's department. Fewer than half of the violent crimes which take place are ever reported. Children, somebody's child, maybe a child you love, are victims of crime every day. An area where you can live, use recreational facilities, and your children can go to school without fear of violence is possible in every part of the County.

Many calls to police or sheriff's departments can be traced back to signs of trouble, trouble which was allowed to continue: the robbery which could have been avoided by better street lights; the family fights which could have been deterred by family counseling; a child brutally bullied who could have been protected by a block parent or neighborhood watch captain; gang violence that could have been prevented by caring adults and by job and educational opportunities; graffiti that could have been curbed by teams of teens involved in community cleanup programs.

Things change for the better when anger and outrage turn to positive action, when despair is replaced with determination, and when you and your neighbors realize that every step forward, no matter how small, counts. Things may not get better overnight, but they can get better.

Creating a community that will not tolerate violent crime means bringing together vision (a clear picture of what you want your neighborhood to be), energy (people ready to roll up their sleeves), confidence (a belief in your ability to make a difference), a commitment (a willingness to work together and to keep working hard toward your goal, even if it takes a while).

Commitment to the difficult task of parenting requires a deep dedication to the growth and welfare of your child. Ask questions consistently of children so that you have a clear understanding of what activities your child is involved in. Ask questions and know where and who your child is with 100% of the time.

Remember to **STOP** the violence we must **START** something! Get involved, be informed and this war will be won.

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_



In one way or another

EVERYONE GETS TOUCHED BY

# VIOLLENCE

Some people get hurt or killed through acts of violence. Mostly they're innocent people. Violence ruins lives, takes apart our communities and costs tax money to fight. Violence costs everyone some of their peace, freedom and safety.



Wow, violence is really terrible... it's like lightning; you never know where or when it will strike...

...or who will get hurt... Last week my little sister was shot at a birthday party.



...I'm really sorry Louis. I heard that it was a gang drive-by shooting.





# WHAT IS A "GANG"

## How gangs may be **LIKE** other groups

- They have a group name or leader.
- They often gather at the same place or "turf."
- They sometimes dress alike.

## How gangs are **DIFFERENT** from other groups:

- They do criminal activity.
- Try to control others with fear and violence.
- Claim other people's property as their own "turf."



# WHO JOINS GANGS, AND WHY?

## Male & Female, Children, Teens, Adults, Rich and Poor...

- Want protection.
- Know Gang Members.
- Want money without work.
- Feel insecure.
- Feel powerless.
- Want friends and "family".
- Want excitement.
- Feel pressure from others.
- Have an unhappy home life.
- Feel hopeless.
- Want recognition.
- Want acceptance.

Joining a gang may seem like a solution, but it doesn't solve problems...



You know, some people think gangs are like other clubs or groups who have a name and dress alike.

No way! Gangs don't form to help others or to make things better in the neighborhood.



...yeah, they only look out for themselves...at everybody else's expense!



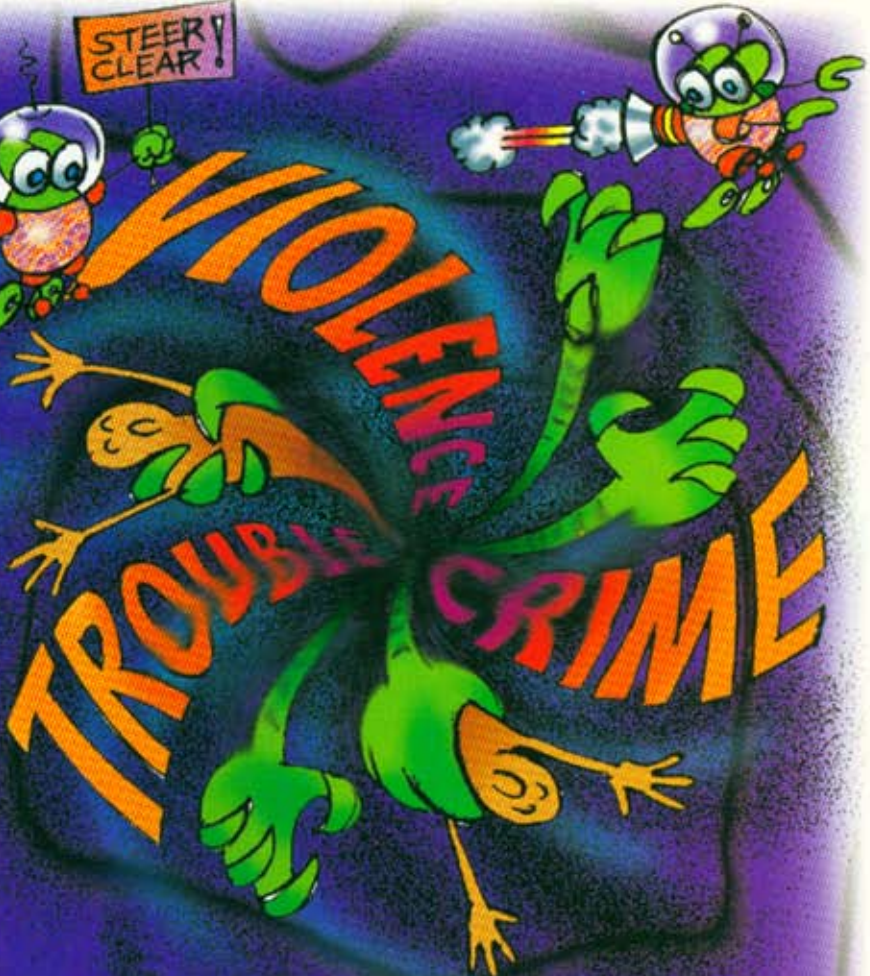


# RISK

GANGS ARE A BLACK HOLE... DON'T GET SUCKED IN!

THE CLOSER YOU GET TO GANGS AND VIOLENCE THE MORE DIFFICULT IT IS TO STAY SAFE!

*Don't kid yourself... being nice and being innocent is no protection when you're around gangs!*



"I thought that joining the gang would be my key to popularity... Well, I got more than I bargained for... now trouble comes right to my door!"



**MYTH:** joining a gang will make you safe

**FACT:** Gang association puts you at higher risk...



...you, your family, friends and everyone in the neighborhood

Some kids like to hang around gangs because they think they're interesting and exciting.



Well, that's like carrying a bomb around for excitement... you don't know when it's going to blow up in your face.

... a lot of kids think if somebody gets hurt, it will be somebody else. They don't think anything can happen to **them**.







Yeah, this is not right!... we better go tell someone!

...I know where there's an officer we can tell.

This is everybody's neighborhood these guys are messing up!

Tagging and graffiti sounds like innocent fun. It's not!, It's really vandalism. It destroys public and private property. It ruins neighborhoods, is an eye sore and costs everyone a lot of money!

Doing GRAFFITI is against the law!!!

## WHO DOES GRAFFITI?

- Gang members.
- Groups known as "crews".
- Adults.

## WHY PEOPLE DO GRAFFITI

- Gangs marking territories or turf.
- Damage to property.
- To be noticed by other vandals or taggers.

## WHAT DO I DO IF I SEE GRAFFITI?

**TELL:** • A family member • A teacher • The Police (use 911 only if emergency)

Tell someone right away. Besides being ugly, graffiti can cause violence. The longer graffiti is up the more likely it will get worse and end up costing more!!



A couple of my friends are taggers. They talk like they're heroes on some great crusade or something...



Hardly!...Graffiti is for losers! Nobody likes the way they ruin the neighborhood. Most people hate what taggers do.

Yeah, wrecking things is stupid...It doesn't take any talent. People with real talent do something to make the neighborhood better.





THE PRICE

of GANG VIOLENCE, CRIME & GRAFFITI

# LOST:

What gang violence, crime and graffiti can cost the neighborhood:

- lost jobs: businesses move away
- lost money: graffiti & vandalism cleanup
- lost peace of mind: people feel in danger
- lost education: vandalism, theft, violence
- lost health: from drug use and violent injuries
- lost business: people stay away from trouble.
- lost freedom: have to lockup, avoid bad areas
- lost lives: gang members and innocent people
- lost growth: leaders and investors move away
- lost property values: neighborhood looks bad
- lost safety: individuals and families in danger
- lost hope: people see things going downhill
- lost pride: in neighborhood and property
- lost trust: people on the defense

Gangs are a losing deal... they cost everybody something.

# CO\$T\$

What association with a gang can cost an individual:

- It puts everyone you care about in danger.
- You always have to stay on guard from the law and rival gangs. You become a round-the-clock target.
- Many friends won't trust, respect or associate with you if you're in a gang.
- Your own gang may try to hurt you if you make a choice they don't agree with or if they think you want out.
- Good chance you could be killed, maimed or crippled for life.
- May be pushed to do things you never wanted to do and end up in more trouble than you ever thought.
- Hurt your chances of getting and keeping a good job once you decide to do something with your life.

Gangs aren't a winning team. They can cost you everything you've got.

REMEMBER: Gangs don't care what YOU lose as long as they get what THEY want!



Our family may not be able to go on vacation this year. We have to pay for an expensive home security system because of the break-ins in our neighborhood.

...wow, that's not good. Did you guys know that the new equipment for our computer class was stolen from school last week? ...probably for drug money. What next?



...What's next is they cancelled our art classes at the clubhouse after last week's shooting. They said it's getting too dangerous and they can't afford to pay for security guards.





# Solutions

HEY, THERE'S A BETTER WAY...



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Want to make the neighborhood a better place?

The first thing to do is to decide what kind of person you want to be... You see, the neighborhood isn't likely to be any more honest, moral and fair than you are!



What you do and how you live matters a lot! Your contributions and example affect others. Each one of us is either part of the PROBLEM or part of the SOLUTION.

Problems with gangs, crime, violence and graffiti really START when people think it doesn't matter what they do. When they quit doing what's right and taking care of things that matter, like family and neighbors, everything gets worse.

These problems STOP when ordinary people pitch in together and stand up for what they know is right. It doesn't take super people or heroic deeds. Every contribution, big or small, helps.



The key is focusing energy on being FOR positive things rather than fighting AGAINST negative things. When we all do a little, it really adds up...

*It's like putting money in the bank!*



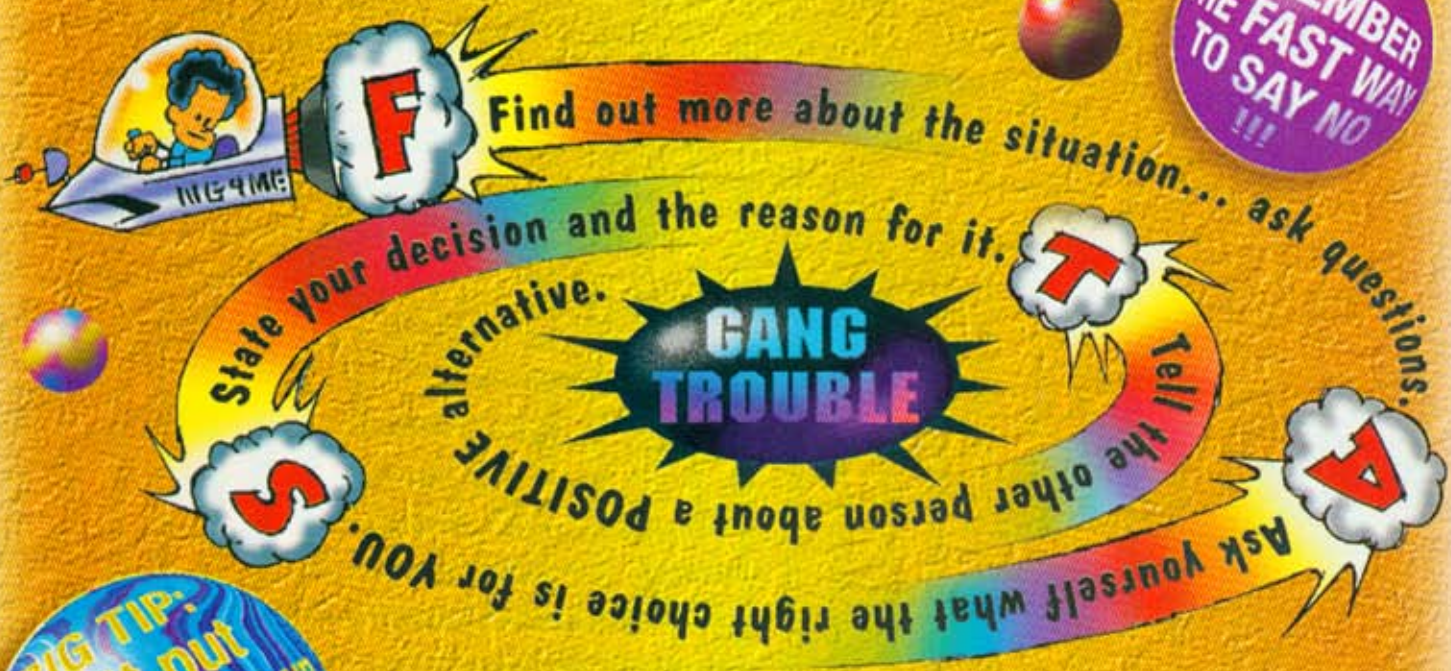


# Refusal Skills



SOMEDAY, YOU MIGHT BE APPROACHED BY A GANG. IF THIS HAPPENS, KEEP IN MIND THAT GANG LIFE IS NOT WHAT IT MAY SEEM...THE BEST THING TO DO IS HEAD THE OTHER WAY... F.A.S.T.!

REMEMBER THE FAST WAY TO SAY NO !!!



**BIG TIP:** don't put someone down when you say no...

That way they may be open to consider some better suggestion you may have. You don't want to let them influence you to do something bad, but you can influence them to do something good!!!

After all, most people are looking for better things to do anyway. Sometimes they choose a poor idea just because it's the only one they could think of at the time.



It seems like there's always people trying to find ways for us to get in trouble.

Yeah, you have to decide what is right for you instead of just going along with others .



That's true, and things don't get better until somebody takes a stand for doing the right thing.

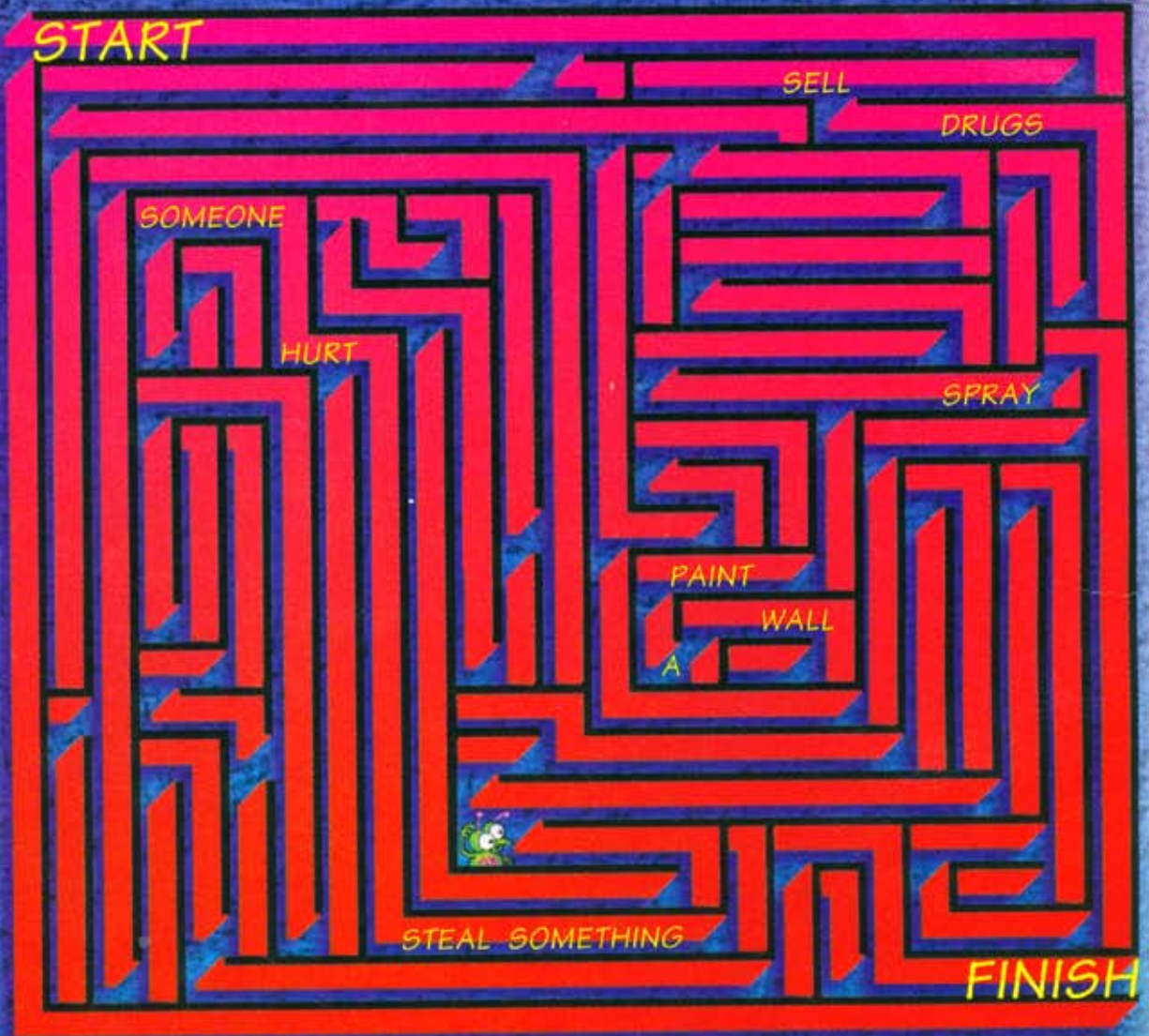




# Avoiding the GANG MAZE

Complete the maze and find out some of the things a gang might want you to do. Write each word you come to in the spaces provided below, then, beside each gang activity, write the letter of the reason for not doing what the gang asks.

Gangs are a dead end. Watch out... don't get trapped!



## GANG ACTIVITIES:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ reason: \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ reason: \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ reason: \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ reason: \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

On a separate piece of paper, list some other things a gang might want you to do... and why you should not get involved.

## GOOD REASONS FOR NOT GETTING INVOLVED:

- A. Taking things from people is against the law... you risk getting arrested.
- B. Dealing is an illegal way to make money... people who "use" can end up ruining their lives.
- C. Everyone in the neighborhood lives in fear of violence.
- D. No one has the right to mark public or private property... streets and neighborhoods belong to everyone.

answers:

(1) Sell drugs; (2) Hurt someone; (3) Steal something; (4) Spray paint a wall; (5) Paint a wall



# GANG MATH

Life is like solving a math problem: use the right formula, take the right steps and you get good results. Use the wrong formula, skip the steps and things get bad.

**CHOOSE WHICH FORMULA YOU THINK WORKS FOR YOU...**

## SUCCESS FORMULA

(creates solutions)

Pay your dues, do the work.

- + Honesty
- + Work
- + Cooperation
- + Respect
- + Service

**= Success & Happiness**

Success requires work  
but pays off with lasting value.

## GANG FORMULA

(creates problems)

Take a shortcut, cheat your way.

- Lying
- Cheating
- Stealing
- Disrespect
- Violence

**= Disappointment & Failure**

Gangs promise an easy way  
but deliver bad results



Gangs *divide* families, neighborhoods and races. They turn people against each other who could be friends.



Gangs *multiply* fear, suspicion, aggression and hatred in the neighborhood. They turn normal problems into nightmares.



Gangs *take away* from the quality of life for everybody in the neighborhood. They reduce peace, safety and freedom. They trash neighborhoods.



Gangs *add* needless burdens to other people. They cost a lot of time, effort and money that's needed elsewhere to make things better for everyone.



Gangs are a **big O!** They don't create, contribute or help. They make things worse, not better. They're against people, not for them.



Gangs = trouble... for gang members and for everyone else.

Any way you figure it...







# THANKS



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For more information on ordering this booklet for your school call Drug Use is Life Abuse/Project: No Gangs (714) 647-4593

Ordinary people pulling together  
for the neighborhood  
make all the difference.



*This educational booklet was developed by:*

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