

SECURE THE CALL NEWS



Recycling cell phones to help the community

Issue #6

SECURE THE CALL LAUNCHES CELL PHONE DRIVE PROGRAM

In its never-ending effort to collect more and more used cell phones, Secure the Call today kicked off a program to hold one-month collection drives at office buildings, large corporations and churches and synagogues through-out the USA.

Faced with an ever-increasing need for more free 911 phones coupled with robust but limited donations coming in from permanent collection sites in 44 states, Secure the Call has created a one-month drive program that will hopefully bring in an additional 5000 phones per month. Managers of large buildings and significant employers will be asked to "host" a collection drive at their place of business.

This will be a great fit for companies with sustainability issues. It keeps used phones out of landfills, and allows employees or tenants to properly dispose of e-waste and help needy groups at the same time.

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 for supplying the used phones needed to make the program a success.

Additionally, Secure the Call is developing programs for the Red Cross and the AARP, both of which will increase the need for phones coming into the program.

According to Mike Morgan, President and Founder of Secure the Call, "Everyone wins in this program. Employees and building tenants will be able to properly, confidently and safely dispose of used phones without fear of compromise of their personal data. Employers and building managers will be able to offer their constituents a valuable service at almost no cost. Most of all, Americans in need of convenient access to 911 emergency services win."

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

HELP US BY HOLDING A ONE MONTH CELL PHONE DRIVE

Secure the Call needs your help. With more and more communities asking us for 911 emergency only phones we're asking you to hold a one month cell phone drive at your location.



Thanks to you the programs works!

flyers through e-mail to each of their tenants, and kept tenants posted on the deadlines for the program.

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

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



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