<u>Crime Stoppers Ambassador – A Call into Action</u>

"Ring ring!" Do you remember the call that impacted your life forever? For me, it was the night that I witnessed a brutal assault in my childhood home. At 11 years old, I was called into action. My bare feet hit the pavement, and I ran more than a block in my nightgown to call for help. Red and blue lights and sirens filled the air. It was a life-changing experience that made me uniquely qualified to serve as Ambassador for Crime Stoppers.

As "Ambassador," I am called to promote and encourage the reporting and prevention of crime in my school district. This is a role that I took on independently this year since my sponsor, George Navarro, retired from teaching criminal justice, which was devastating news. Crime Stoppers had been an integral part of my life for the past two years, and I could not give up on my passion and this program.

So, once again, I was called into action. Inspired and determined, I began working on ways to keep the Crime Stoppers program alive. I created an original wristband design for SETX Crime Stoppers that included the local TIPS phone number. In less than two days, I distributed 300 wristbands to students and faculty throughout my high school, which was an effective icebreaker for talking to my peers about solving and reducing crime on our campus. I also posted about my wristband project on social media to further promote and encourage awareness for Crime Stoppers.

Continuing with my efforts, I interviewed my school resource officer, Sergeant Clint Nichols, to gauge local support on Crime Stoppers. He reported that crime rates have significantly reduced since he joined our campus, and the past few years have been the quietest of his career. He expressed his appreciation for our campus Criminal Justice Club and proudly boasted that members of the police department and fire department are active supporters of Crime Stoppers.

So, what does the future hold? I will continue to pursue my passion for criminology and the law.

"Ring ring!"...Crime Stoppers is calling for YOU!