

## What Parents Don't Know CAN Hurt Them

Gangs exist in almost every school and neighborhood in our community. This means that your children are exposed to very real pressures everyday. Youth involved in gang activity are often involved in committing crimes also such as breaking and entering, larceny, vandalism, etc. Most gang members engage in negative behaviors such as substance abuse, lack respect for parents and other authority figures, and are verbally abuse parents, sisters & brothers and others.

Gang activity usually leads to problems at home, school, and with law enforcement. Gangs are dangerous and it is up to parents, schools and local programs to find other ways for our youth to spend their time.



It is never too early to begin talking to your children about the harms of drug use and gang activity. **Parents should:**

- Get to know your child's friends AND their parents. Friends often pressure each other into drug use, gang activity, etc.
- Talk to your teens about dealing with Peer Pressure. Teach them how to say "no" with confidence.
- Set clear expectations about these behaviors with your teens. Talk to them about consequences for their actions.

The goal of The Cumberland Gang Prevention Partnership is to help parents prevent their youth from getting involved in gangs and provide resources for parents of youth that are already involved in gang activity.



### Cumberland Gang Prevention Partnership

CC CommuniCare Inc.  
711-B Executive Place  
Fayetteville, NC 28305  
Telephone: 910.829.9017

**Cumberland Gang Hotline  
433.1524**

# Cumberland Gang Prevention Partnership

A community collaboration including Fayetteville Urban Ministry, Fayetteville Police Department, CC Sheriff's Office and CC Schools



## What Parents Need To Know About Youth Gangs



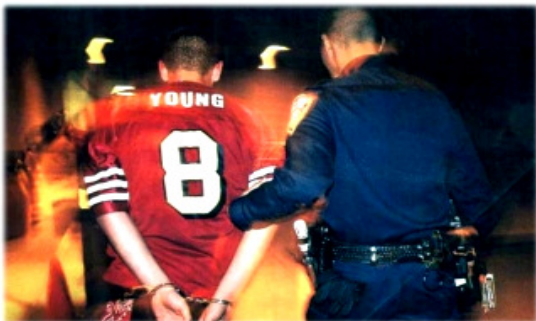
For more information contact  
CC CommuniCare Inc. at  
829.9017

**Cumberland Gang Hotline:  
433.1524**

## Warning Signs That Your Youth Might Be Involved With Gangs

Your children are exposed to gangs at a very early age. More and more young people are at-risk of joining a gang either at school or in their neighborhood. If you notice any of the following in your youth you should be concerned:

- If your youth is only interested in wearing one or two colors like red, blue, white or green or clothes with certain logos or other drastic changes in dress style
- Unusual drawings or symbols on notebooks, clothing or walls
- Physical injuries such as having been in a fight. Look for injuries to hands in particular
- Increased secrecy
- Staying out or sneaking out of the home without reason
- Changes in attitudes towards school, friends, law enforcement officers, adults or normal activities
- Associating with negative peers



## How Can The Cumberland Gang Prevention Partnership Help Parents?



CC CommuniCare Inc. has established partnerships to find ways to help youth and/or parents struggling with this problem. Agency Partners include:

**To report gang involvement or criminal activity including graffiti and tagging, call the local Hotline:**

**433-1524**

**Fayetteville Urban Ministry/Find A Friend:** Provides mentoring to specifically address the needs of gang involved youth. For more information, contact: **Johnny Wilson, Coordinator at 483-5944.**

**CC Schools:** Provides services within the schools to address gang related behavior as well as academic needs. For more information, contact: **Carol Hudson, Safe & Caring Schools Supervisor at 678-2495.**

**CC Sheriff's Office:** Provides G.R.E.A.T. Families programming for families with children ages 10-14 years; community awareness training and one-on-one family interviews/assessments for parents concerned about gang activity and how it may be impacting their own family. For more information, contact **Lt. Neelis Smith at 323-1500.**

**Fayetteville Police Department:** Provides individual interviews/assessments with parents concerned about gang activity; Conducts Youth Gang Call-ins for gang members and associates; Provides community awareness trainings and support for Community Watch programs. For more information, contact **Lt. Sparks at 433-1851.**

## Parents Can Protect Their Youth From Gang Activity

Parents can help their youth resist youth gangs. In fact, parents may be the only reason that teens stay away from joining youth gangs. It is important for parents to look for warning signs that their youth may be getting involved in gang activity or other things that lead to criminal behavior. Here's how:

- Know who your youth is hanging out with at all times and where they are.
- Talk to your youth. Have a conversation on a daily basis about school, friends, sports, etc. Let them know you are interested in them.
- Avoid harsh or unfair discipline and reward your teen for doing well in school, with chores at home, or anything else that they have done well.
- Take steps to end domestic violence, substance abuse, or other abuse in your home.
- Avoid allowing the Internet, TV, video games or other things take the place of your relationship with your teen. Take notice of websites such as: MySpace.com<sup>®</sup>, Bebo.com<sup>®</sup>, **or any web site that allows posting of personal information.** Review any postings your teen makes on these sites.
- Tell them you do NOT approve of gangs.
- Plan activities for with your youth & as a family.
- Pay attention to what is happening with them.
- **Be an involved parent!**

