

Samantha's PRIDE Fact Sheet

What is Samantha's PRIDE?

- Samantha's PRIDE – A Community Awareness and Child Watch Program was designed to facilitate collaboration among neighbors so that they can work to provide a safe neighborhood for their children while alleviating some of the daily stress of parenting.
- The first PRIDEs organized in San Clemente in July of 2003. There are currently 10 active prides in Orange County, with interest from communities throughout California and across the U.S.
- PRIDE refers to the example of a Lion's pride in which all members of the pride work together to ensure one another's safety and well-being. Just as in a Lion's pride, Samantha's PRIDE engages everyone, from the elderly to our young adults, in the protection, responsibility, inclusion, development and enrichment of all children.
- The program provides guidelines for organizing such as taking turns monitoring the streets after school, exchanging respite care between families and supervising children as they walk to and from school.
- Persons who volunteer are equipped with "PRIDE Protector" vests and street signs that indicate "Samantha's PRIDE Child Watch in Effect!"
- Participants are required to be fingerprinted at a Live Scan law enforcement facility before becoming an official PRIDE representative who can wear a numbered vest.

How Is the Program Funded?

- Law Enforcement agencies will want to utilize their Crime Prevention officers and budget to support Samantha's PRIDE and the Live Scan procedure. Officers are welcomed to community events to talk about safety issues with parents and children in an age appropriate context.
- Samantha's PRIDE has the support of The California Attorney General, Bill Lockyer, the FBI and Orange County Sheriff, Michael Carona. All agencies have agreed to waive the fees involved with the fingerprinting and Live Scan procedures.
- The only cost involved may come from individual law enforcement agencies with respect to the cost of the fingerprinting and those fees vary depending on the agency. The Joyful Child Foundation will work with PRIDEs to pay for these costs if the local law enforcement agency is unwilling to waive the fees.

How can neighborhoods get involved?

- Information packets may be downloaded from The Joyful Child Web Site at www.thejoyfulchild.org.
- The Joyful Child Foundation is looking for volunteer Area Coordinators in every city to help neighborhoods develop their PRIDE programs. The Area Coordinators act as liaisons between individual PRIDEs, law enforcement and The Joyful Child Foundation.
- Nicole Meloche of San Clemente is The Joyful Child Foundation's first Samantha's PRIDE Area Coordinator and is largely responsible for the success of the pilot programs there. PRIDEs have also been established in Mission Viejo and Laguna Niguel.