

HELPFUL HINTS

The following are suggestions put forward by local committees and volunteers so feel free to adapt them to suit your own local events.

Obtain more prominence in the local community by having a presence at the local fetes and stands at the local show day/s.

Can gain further exposure by using the promotional trailer and/or MA costume.

Also consider targeting local shopping centres and using their information booths.

Fill a yellow car with safety house balloons and children guess how many balloons inside the car.

Targeting other community groups eg;

Churches

Country Women's Association

Lions, Rotary etc

Kindergartens

Play Groups

Neighbourhood Watch (Newsletter)

Senior Citizens

Co-ordinate with the Country Fire Authority

Approach friends and neighbours.

Promote awareness by: -

Sending questionnaires via pupils to parents.

Using information forms with yes/no questions – to gain interest and generate support.

Conduct poster competitions at school winner has their poster on front cover of "In-House" and/or on the web site.

Conduct chalk drawings on paving (footpaths) have children involved in the interpretation.

Hold colouring in competitions via computer – e-mail etc (modernise methods).

Spread these activities throughout the year as a constant reminder.

Safety House Walks

Place a map of the Safety Houses in your area in a prominent position at your school.

Get children walking around their area to locate Safety House that appear on the map (Preps might like to walk with their grade 6 buddy).

Organise with householder to meet the children at their front gate – this involves the householder and introduces the children to the adults they would meet if they used a Safety House.

Householders might place Safety House balloons on their gates on the local school yellow day – again children walk the area looking for the balloons the safety house sign and meet with the householder.

Organise a Safety House stand or notice board at the school. Have brochures etc available and perhaps place photographs of the local committee on the board so that the parents and community are aware who is involved in the Safety House Program. Map of the streets showing safety house locations.

Yellow Day. A morning or afternoon tea held for Safety Householders to thank them for their support. Involve some of the students if possible. (grade six serve tea and coffee)

Use Christmas Cards to Householders from the children and from Head Office to retain the houses and recognise their contribution.

Award a Safety House certificate to a school child Recognise safe behaviour by students at assembly by including a safety award with other awards at assembly.

Show Safety House videos at school assembly – hold talk sessions with parents afterwards in staff room offer a morning tea.

Contact local councillors face to face – explain the Program to them and seek their involvement.

Use the “Communities Caring for Children” video– when recruiting.

Use schools more by:

Working in close conjunction with Teachers who teach prep grades (junior school). Hold or be a part of the school presentation nights set aside to talk to parents at the parent information night for preps.

Personalise a letter box drop – have the children take letter/brochure home to give to parents.

Letters hand delivered by Teachers (School Representative on Safety House Committee) to school parents in areas where Safety Houses are needed – this is a more personal approach.

Ask Principal, which parents (junior school parents) he/she thinks would be good to approach to become committee members and/or householders and Safety House committee approaches them personally.

Resources. Members to suggest to head office any ideas for Resources to be used for promotional purposes eg., vinyl house plates for round letterboxes. Use the present resources available to members (price list and stock list is available).

Locate the Safety House Competition. When Ima visits the school take photos of Ima outside different Safety Houses and place photographs of a in your local school newsletter – hold a competition regularly with pupils to guess where this Safety House is located.

Look at the possibility of putting together a Safety House Cookbook – members can send in recipes.

Create a Safety House Jigsaw Puzzle. Photocopy the logo onto yellow paper and glue to thin cardboard and then cut into jigsaw pieces

Use Police more – Police available to talk to children about the Safety House Program at school assembly or in classroom, need to give around four weeks notice to local police station or Crime Prevention Officer.

Thank you to our members who have contacted us with their ideas and if you find something works for you please let us know. We look forward to hearing from your committee or school so send in new ideas so we can pass them on.