



Great Grants and Initiatives

Grantor: **The Colorado Trust**

Grantee or Initiative: **Safe2Tell**

Amount of Grant: **\$750,000**

Period of Grant Award: **2003-2009**

The Colorado Trust funded the development and start-up of the *Safe2Tell* hotline program with a three-year \$375,000 grant (2003 to 2006) to Colorado Crime Stoppers, Inc., (Colorado Springs Police Department). The Trust made an additional three-year \$375,000 grant (2006 to 2009) to the Colorado State Patrol to expand the program.

Because young people often know about troubling events before they occur, the Safe2Tell hotline, with well-trained operators, gives students in all Colorado schools—as well as teachers, parents, community members and others—the ability to prevent and report violence 24 hours a day by making anonymous calls to 1-877-542-SAFE about situations that make them feel unsafe on the school grounds or in their community, without fear of retribution for reporting such situations. The Colorado General Assembly passed legislation in 2007 guaranteeing the anonymity of callers to the hotline, housed at the Colorado State Patrol Communications Center.

From September 2004 to February 2009, more than 4,400 calls have been received, resulting in 1,459 Tip Reports from 127 Colorado cities and 50 of the state's 64 counties. Actions taken as a result of the calls include 136 school disciplinary actions, 23 arrests, 181 investigations, and counseling and referrals. Safe2Tell receives in-kind and financial support from the Colorado State Patrol. Other organizations supporting Safe2Tell include the Colorado Department of Public Safety and Colorado Department of Education. School administrators and law enforcement officials in more than a dozen other states are looking at how to replicate the successes of the Safe2Tell program.