

My name is Clarissa Deleon I am an Ambassador for the Texas Student Crime Stoppers, I am also a part of the Odessa Student Crime Stoppers. I was curious about what Crime Stoppers does for people in the community and how it impacts students past and present.

I interviewed Susan Rogers who is the CEO of Odessa Crime Stoppers, and asked her about how our student programs came about in our school district. Our student organization was created in August of 1993. The board of directors learned about other student crime stoppers programs and went to ECISD to see if the program could be implemented into schools, after three years the program became established after a two year trial run. This year the Odessa Student Crime Stoppers Program will be celebrating our 31st anniversary.

There were some success stories that came out of the Student Crime Stoppers Program. I asked Mrs. Rogers, and she talked about some stories of the people who have gone through the program, and she told me about four past students and where they are now. There was one student who after she came out of the program became a crime scene analyst for the Odessa Police Department. Randy Lewis started at a career center then went as an officer for the Odessa Police Department, then became a DPS Trooper for the state of Texas, he is currently a Lieutenant for the Texas Rangers. Mr. Lewis has gone to past conferences, and spoke about his past experience and role in the Student Crime Stoppers. William McGilvary was a part of the Odessa Student Crime Stoppers throughout his high school career and went on to become an officer at Odessa College, he is now an officer for the Ector County Independent School District Police Department. There are also three students who graduated and went on to become firefighters and EMTs.

I was also curious about how Crime Stoppers as a whole motivates our community. I asked Mrs. Rogers about what her input was on my question. She said that Crime stoppers not only motivates the community but deters criminals, because of the saying “If you see something say something.”, You never know when someone is watching. It reminds potential criminals that someone is always watching and for the community to remember “if you see something, say something” that is why it is being spread all over social media.

Mrs. Rogers joined Crime Stoppers when she was the victim of a DWI when she was 19 years old. Before joining crime stoppers she was a part of mothers against drunk driving, then asked to join Crime Stoppers after a ride along. One thing that she liked about the Crime Stoppers program was that the tips that were sent in were anonymous, she liked the concept as her past experience left a bad taste in her mouth. She was asked to give an aspect about drunk driving issues to the executive board for Crime Stoppers. She was asked to join the executive board and served three years and accumulated a total of 36 years with the Crime Stoppers program. Mrs. Rogers gave her opinion and said the reason that many people call Crime Stoppers is for the reward “ 60% of people do it for the money, and 40% do it because it is the right thing to do.