

Date: 8-07-2007
Name of activity: National Night Out
Activity accomplishments: as below

On August 7, 2007, families gathered outside of ZAM's Hope at 4:00 P.M. to participate in National Night Out to show solidarity against crime. It was ZAM's Hope's second time participating in this annual, nationwide event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. Thirty-four million people throughout the nation had participated in last year's event, and this year marked the 24th year it has taken place. The goals of National Night Out are to: "heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back" (www.nationalnightout.org). ZAM's Hope received support for this event from the Chicago Police Department, 24th District. ZAM's Hope invited all of its volunteers and families to participate.

After families shared food, volunteers presented information on issues of safety. They described precautions that kids need to take when dealing with strangers. The volunteers also discussed online safety issues, and reminded both kids and adults that safety measures are important even in cyberspace. Kids listened attentively to a story told by a volunteer of a young girl who gave out too much personal information to a stranger over the Internet. Kids then took turns sharing their own stories of crimes they have witnessed or heard of.

The Night incorporated the theme of "anti-violence" that is found throughout this year's summer activities. Kids learned the safety measures they must take to keep themselves safe from violence. Both kids and adults expressed wishes for a safer neighborhood. The event concluded by 9:30 P.M. about 55 youth and parents participated this year.