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Contact:

Linda Zimmerman
911 Cell Phone Bank
(866)290-7864
lzimmerman@rmscomm.com

Contact:

Ed Hutchison
National Association of Triads, Inc.
(800) 424-7827
ehutchison@sheriffs.org

Sheriff's Offices and Triads Join in the Green Initiative with the 911 Cell Phone Bank.

Sheriff's Offices and Triads Join in the Green Initiative with the 911 Cell Phone Bank to Recycle Cell Phones.

Alexandria, VA – April 7, 2008 – Sheriff's Offices and Triads across the nation are joining in the "Green Initiative" to recycle cell phones. But the reasons may not always be for a greener planet. Partnered with the 911 Cell Phone Bank, the National Association of Triads, Inc., (NATI, an initiative of the National Sheriffs' Association) and Sheriffs' Offices will be collecting cell phones to benefit older adults and abuse victims, as well.

The 911 Cell Phone Bank, a nonprofit organization that provides no-cost emergency cell phones to law enforcement and victim services agencies nationwide, will process the phones. In return, the 911 Cell Phone Bank will provide the cash value of the collected cell phones as well as free emergency cell phones to affiliated victim and senior service agencies. NATI promotes safety for older adults and serves as a clearinghouse of information and best practices – and as an early alert system – for local safety programs for older adults.

But the benefits are clearly two-fold. With spring time greening up landscapes and Earth Day on April 22, now is the time to think about cleaning up the environment by donating old cell phones. Cell phones contain hazardous materials that don't belong in a landfill, so don't throw them in the garbage. While we have come a long way in protecting the environment and this planet, cell phone recycling has only in recent years become a concern.

Cell phones contain large amounts of hazardous substances that can pollute the air when burned and leach into our soil and water when hidden in landfills. Those old cell phones can provide needed funds as well as emergency communication for vulnerable older adults and victims of abuse. Surveys suggest that 90% of Americans would recycle their cell phones if there were a convenient drop-off location near them.

"This is a good opportunity to get communities involved in the disposition of cell phones in an environmentally friendly manner," said NATI Director Ed Hutchison. "I am very excited about this program and the additional tool it will provide in assisting our nations' vulnerable older adults. This program also benefits local Triads and victim service organizations. By providing additional resources to those who make communities safer and an emergency tool to our growing older adult population, cell phone recycling carries a double benefit." added Hutchison.

Anyone interested in donating used cell phones can check out www.911cellphonebank.org to find a drop-off location or call their local Sheriff's Office. Communities interested in setting up a Triad Program or getting more involved can call Terri Hicks at (800) 424-7827 X301.

James Mosieur, Director of the 911 Cell Phone Bank, said law enforcement agencies around the country are signing up to participate in the 911 Cell Phone Bank program. "We started the 911 Cell Phone Bank Program in 2004, and it has already generated nearly fifty thousand emergency cell phones, redirected tons of e-waste from landfills and hundreds of thousands of dollars in

emergency funds for various law enforcement needs. No need is greater than supporting law enforcement agencies who work so tirelessly on behalf of their local communities.”

The National Sheriffs’ Association President Sheriff Craig Webre recorded a public service announcement for the 911 Cell Phone Bank. To view, please go to <http://www.911cellphonebank.com/psa/sheriff-craig-webre.asp>. For stories of how emergency cell phones can help people, see <http://newsletters.911cellphonebank.org/true-stories.html>.

About Triad

Triad is a partnership of three organizations – law enforcement, senior citizens and community groups. The sole purpose of Triad is to promote senior safety and to reduce the unwarranted fear of crime that seniors often experience. The National Association of Triads, Inc., assists in organizing Triad programs at the grass-roots level, provides ideas and programs to implement in the community and training materials for law enforcement, senior volunteers and community groups.

About the 911 Cell Phone Bank The 911 Cell Phone Bank is an initiative of The RMS Foundation, a 501(c)3 public charity and is partnered with the National Sheriffs’ Association and the National Association of Triads, Inc. It was created to provide an ongoing and readily available source of 911 cell phones and funds to meet unexpected and urgent needs of participating law enforcement and affiliated victim services agencies. It is a nationwide program designed to maximize community cell phone donations. Some 650 law enforcement and community services organizations around the country have signed up to participate in the 911 Cell Phone Bank. Nearly 2,000 emergency cell phones each month are distributed to law enforcement and other agencies for emergency communication. Since its inception, the 911 Cell Phone Bank has generated hundreds of thousands of dollars and close to fifty thousand cell phones for victim services organizations across the country. To learn more visit www.911CellPhoneBank.org.
