



Local REALTOR® and Neighborhood Resident Takes Part in Community Safety

TORRANCE, Calif. – October 28, 2008 – Several years ago, Roberta Stuart became aware of a disturbing rash of home invasion robberies in the Golden Hills area of Redondo Beach, where she lives. Two occurred very near to her. Both events took place in the middle of the day.

“The lady of one house stepped out for a short visit to her child’s school and returned to find her property missing,” Stuart recalls. “Another woman living on our very block also left her home for a brief time, and when she returned, she found her door open and items missing from her office.”

Stuart had participated in Neighborhood Watch when she lived in Manhattan Beach. With her experience in that program, she helped set one up in Redondo Beach. Working with Neighborhood Watch and public safety officials is just one way that Roberta Stuart, also a REALTOR®, chooses to give back to her community.

“It seemed the appropriate action for all neighborhoods to be taking, just as a basic citizen’s response,” said Stuart. “I grew up in and around New York City and had always lived with an awareness that arises from city living.”

The Redondo Beach Police Department assists and encourages Neighborhood Watch groups and sent an officer to the first meeting. He outlined the steps to secure properties and offered educational awareness for dealing with predatory personalities in the community. Stuart was elected "Captain" for the block. As Captain, she passes on community alerts, maintains the membership list, and chairs the annual meeting. As a REALTOR®, Stuart works out of her home office. She walks her two dogs twice a day, giving her a constant presence on her block which makes it easy to network with her many "deputies" along the way.

In addition to her regular work and her volunteering on Neighborhood Watch, Stuart became a CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) member after attending a town seminar on disaster preparedness. Why CERT?

“The wonderful men and women of our police and fire departments will not be able to get to every person who needs assistance in a major disaster. As a result, CERT was set up

by the Fire Department to give immediate aid to their own families first, and then to the surrounding neighborhood,” said Stuart.

CERT members are trained in first aid and CPR, and are taught basic search and rescue techniques. They have several full days of disaster exercises staffed and supervised by the Fire Department, and are charged with maintaining a fully-equipped CERT pack in their homes.

CERT also staffs community open houses and raises money to help support equipment needs. Stuart recently donated two bicycles to a recent raffle efforts earlier this summer. (Photo)

Why does Roberta Stuart put in all of this extra effort, in addition to her regular work as a REALTOR®? “I was raised to believe that it was a privilege to be able to give a part of my time and talent to my community. Volunteering has been a part of my life from my earliest memories. Hey, somebody has to do it, it might as well be me.”

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