SAFETY AND SERVICE SUGGESTION FOR VOLUNTEERS

Service to the community may take you to places that seem different from your own neighborhood. Some people welcome the chance to learn about new areas, but others wonder if they are safe. The following simple precautions make good sense at a service site as well as in your hometown, your favorite weekend spot or on the UC campus.

1. Know where you are going. Make sure you have the correct address and a verbal description if possible. Get the telephone number so you can call for instructions if you get lost. Have a map. Check the route before you go.

2. Before you go to the site, make an appointment so that people are expecting you. Do not go where you are not expected. Always let someone know where you are going and when to expect you back.

3. Avoid being a target for trouble by:
   - Being aware of your environment at all times;
   - Not displaying expensive jewelry, large amounts of cash or valuable items such as sports equipment, compact disc players or cellular phones; and
   - Not leaving the same articles visible in your car, whether locked or unlocked.

4. Always lock your car. When returning to a parked car, have the key in your hand as you approach. Before opening the car, visually check around, under and inside.

5. Take action if necessary. It is very unusual to be harassed or threatened while volunteering in the community or traveling to a site. If you should be harassed or threatened, try to leave the area and avoid the situation. Then, notify appropriate authority (i.e. supervisor, police, etc).

6. Report any incident or accident to your Service Learning professor and to Michael Sharp at 556-1533 or sharpmj@uc.edu