

## Undercover sting nets customer information from Indianapolis area dealership

In response to the growing problem of identity theft, officials from more than a dozen agencies in central Indiana joined in the formation of a task force to combat identity theft and other financial crimes. The Central Indiana Financial Crimes Task Force includes the U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Secret Service and local police agencies.

During an investigation of identity theft activities in the Indianapolis area, an undercover federal agent approached one of the custodians at a local auto dealership and offered \$50 for each credit application he can find in the store and hand over. The investigators believed the custodian was a possible source of consumer information that could be used to obtain credit cards and IDs.

The result was 100 credit applications winding up in the hands of a United States Postal Service inspector, reports Lyn Boucher, a USPS investigator and member of the Central Indiana Financial Crimes Task Force.

"We were shocked that we could do it so easily," Boucher says. The purchase of credit applications was made during three separate visits to the Indianapolis store. (Note: Investigators are not releasing the name of the store or the name of the custodian, who has been sentenced to jail time and probation, because they are cooperating in ongoing identity theft investigations.)