

Child Safety & Injury Prevention

Fiscal Year 2020-2021



Child Passenger
Safety Education

1,791
Children & Adults
were positively
impacted by child safety
& injury prevention
programs.



Kindergarten Bicycle Safety Program

CARE for Children is the lead agency for the McKean County Partnership with Safe Kids Pennsylvania. Safe Kids McKean is guided by an advisory committee comprised of representatives from local and state organizations, and volunteers; and child safety and injury prevention programs and initiatives are supported by United Way funding, donations, sponsorships, grants and CARE for Children Trust Income.

MCKEAN COUNTY CRIBS FOR KIDS

McKean County Cribs for Kids partners with Cribs for Kids®, a National Infant Safe-Sleep Initiative, to promote local infant safe sleep education and items. The program provides families a Cribette portable crib or Pack 'n Play® if they cannot otherwise afford safe-sleeping environments for their infants. CARE has two Safe Sleep Trainers on staff who provide parent education and training on proper sleep position and sleep environment for the baby.



CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY (CPS)

Safe Kids works closely with volunteer, certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Traffic Injury Prevention Project (TIPP) and other organizations to properly fit car seats and provide replacement seats if needed. Funding from the United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc. ensures families in need have access to car seats. The program requires that a certified car seat technician fit and properly install the seat in the vehicle, and the car seat needs to be the primary seat for the child.

HOME SAFETY & PARENT RESOURCES

Since 2012, the McKean County partnership has worked with at-home visitors to bring necessary home safety items/ childproofing items to families in need. Safe Kids distributes various items such as universal gun locks, door knob covers, cupboard locks and latches, outlet covers, appliance locks, toilet seat locks, furniture straps, smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide detectors. The McKean County Family Centers, Parents as Teachers program, and Early Intervention providers are active partners for this program, providing family referrals. Families are also able to request items.

MCKEAN COUNTY KINDERGARTEN BICYCLE SAFETY

Safe Kids Pennsylvania - McKean County Partner has an ongoing effort which supports bicycle safety and helmet use initiatives for Kindergarten students across McKean County. CARE staff, along with the support of community funders, participates in bicycle safety education, helmet give-aways and fittings for local Kindergarten classes and fits helmets for other age groups by request.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Throughout the year, representatives from the Safe Kids Partnership, CARE staff and child safety partners participate in various community-wide initiatives and events to promote child safety and injury prevention efforts. The partnership also provides training on various child safety-related topics to organizations and community groups.



Program Spotlight- Gun Safety & Children

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

McKean County, PA-- An accidental child shooting, that occurred in March of 2020 in McKean County, prompted several local organizations, led by the Safe Kids Pennsylvania - McKean County Partnership, to collaborate to provide cable-style gun-locking devices to families. Funding for the locks was provided by the United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc.

“Receiving a call that a child has been shot is the worst call I have ever received,” said Stephanie Vettenburg-Shaffer, McKean County District Attorney. “Unfortunately, I’ve received that call more than once. In a neighboring county, a child lost his life recently due to an accidental shooting.”

Vettenburg-Shaffer added, “I cannot imagine the pain a family suffers when a child’s life is lost. Thank you to area agencies for making locking devices available. You will never know the number of young lives saved.”

In the spring of 2021, the Safe Kids Pennsylvania McKean County Partnership distributed universal gun locks to local law enforcement agencies, including the Bradford City Police Department, Foster Township Police Department, Bradford Township Police Department, Otto-Eldred Regional Police Department, Port Allegany Borough Police Department, Kane Police Department and Smethport Police Department.

In addition to the locks, the partnership is providing handouts with helpful gun safety tips for parents and age-appropriate gun safety activity booklets geared for school-age children.

CARE for Children also has a supply of the gun locks to distribute through the organization’s Home Safety Program which gives out childproofing items, smoke detectors and other safety items to local families in need.

“Since 2006, the Safe Kids McKean Partnership and CARE for Children have worked to establish programs and promote initiatives that prevent accidental childhood injuries, disabilities or fatalities,” said Tina M. Martin, CARE executive director and Safe Kids coordinator. “We are pleased to collaborate with our partners to get these live-saving devices into the hands of families who need them.”

The gun locks were purchased from a vendor that works with Project ChildSafe, a program that promotes firearms safety and education through Law Enforcement Organizations.

The McKean County Safe Kids Program, along with its partners, is committed to promoting firearms safety, raising awareness about the safe and responsible ownership of firearms, and the importance of storing firearms securely when not in use to keep children safe and help prevent accidents, theft, and misuse.



From left, Stephanie Vettenburg-Shaffer, McKean County District Attorney; and Tyler Hannah and Tom Ball, members of the CARE for Children Board of Directors, are shown with the universal gun locks that were distributed to local law enforcement agencies in McKean County and through CARE’s Home Safety Program for families in need.

Safe Kids Pennsylvania –McKean County Partner Advisory Committee Members 2020-2021

Tina M. Martin
CARE for Children

Kimberly Engstrom
CARE for Children

Leslie Kallenborn
CARE for Children

Brian Larson
Journey Health System

Sue Pascarella
Bradford Regional Medical Center

Stacie Titus
Bradford YMCA

Sierra Tully
Bradford Family Center

Josh Woods
Highway Safety Network

Andrea Yehl
Bradford Regional Medical Center

Sarah Lonzi
United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc.

Suzy Meyer-Page
CASA of McKean County

Tim Nebgen
PennDOT

Debbie Olson, RN
PA Department of Health

Shane Oschman
Bradford OECD