

Accidents are the leading killers of children under age 15 in the United States. But, the vast majority of accidents are preventable.

Through comprehensive programming, SAFE KIDS coalitions and chapters strive to prevent injury from traffic accidents, fires and burns, drowning, choking and poisoning, and falls.

The national SAFE KIDS Campaign is an important childhood injury prevention program. The campaign was launched in 1988 with the support of former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, M.D., and the financial backing of Johnson & Johnson.

There are 140 state and local SAFE KIDS coalitions in 44 states and the District of Columbia. Ten of those are in Pennsylvania; the closest is in Allegheny County. In addition, there are numerous local chapters.

The Indiana County chapter was formed in 1994 and officially became part of the Pennsylvania SAFE KIDS Coalition and the National SAFE KIDS Campaign in 1995.

## **ACTIVITIES**

The Indiana County SAFE KIDS chapter members strive to provide information and education to the residents of the County; some of their activities have included:

 Child passenger safety seat checkpoints and car seat distribution;



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 Bicycle Safety Rodeos and distribution of bicycle helmets;

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◆ Games and displays at health fairs, school open houses, agency events, and the county fair;

◆ Safety presentations at 4-H camps and elementary schools;



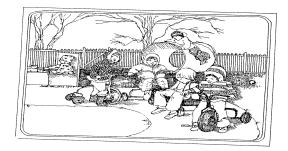
 Information via public service announcements to local newspapers and radio;



 Availability for loan of a "Safe Doll House;



- Water Safety program presented to all third grade school children in the county.
- Distribution of information, such as Safety Checklist and Holiday Toy Safety to parents of young children



Sketches by Jane Nelson McMaster

The chapter meets on the first Wednesday of every month, 9:00 a.m. at the Pennsylvania Department of Health, located at 75 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Indiana. Community members meet to design programs to reduce the incidence of childhood injuries.

Any individual or organization committed to helping reduce unintentional childhood injury is invited to participate.



For more information about Indiana County SAFE KIDS, please call the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 724-357-2995

## Alice Paul House ARIN Intermediate Unit 28 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Indiana Co. Center for Family Life, Inc. Child Care Information Services Citizens' Ambulance Service Community Guidance Center Indiana County Assistance Office (DPW) Indiana County Child Day Care Indiana County Children & Youth Services Indiana County Department of Human Services Indiana County Head Start, Inc. Indiana Regional Medical Center

## County SAFE KIDS



Indiana County Head Start, Inc.
Indiana Regional Medical Center
IUP - Regional Highway Safety Project
PA Department of Health
Penn State Cooperative Extension





