



NATIONAL
**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY BOARD**

A program managed by the National Safety Council

rear-facing • forward-facing • booster seat • safety belts

Press Release

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THE NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY BOARD NAMES CHESTER COUNTY SOCIAL WORKER CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR

Shawn Vovericz, a Life Skills Caseworker for the Chester County Department of Children, Youth and Families, just added “National Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year” to her accolades. Child passenger safety (CPS) is one of the nation’s most significant injury prevention initiatives, considering that the leading cause of death and serious injury for young children is motor vehicle crashes. The U.S. currently has more than 37,000 certified child passenger safety technicians trained to educate caregivers on the installation and proper use of car and booster seats. The National Child Passenger Safety Board recognizes one exemplary technician for their work and dedication to this field annually.

A graduate of Bloomsburg University with a degree in social work, Vovericz has been a social worker with Chester County DCYF since 1993. She became a certified CPS Technician in 2001 and has been educating families about proper safety seat for 13 years. She remains passionate about this role because in her own words, “It is the fact that vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children in the United States and there is still a large percentage of misuse; education is a huge part of what I do.” She joined the Safe Kids Coalition of Chester County when she became a technician in 2001. She became the co-coordinator of the Safe Kids Coalition in 2007 which addresses injury prevention through community based education programs.

Vovericz works with a team of ten other technicians in Chester County representing DCYF and the Sheriff’s and Highway Safety Offices. Child passenger safety technicians from local and state police departments, the local hospital, Graco (a juvenile product manufacturer), local hospital employees and other social service agencies comprise the enthusiastic group of individuals who join Vovericz in frequently volunteering their time for this great cause. What sets this native of North Coventry Township apart from the group is her determination to stay current in new vehicle and safety seat technology. According to Vovericz, it is challenging when parents view CPS technicians as individuals who provide an “installation service” rather than learn to install a seat themselves. “It’s essential for parents to take interest in the education portion for when the need to reinstall the seat or when their child graduates to the next car seat,” said Vovericz.

The Board recognized Shawn with the honor and she also received a monetary award from AAA at the Lifesavers Conference in Chicago, on March 14th. The Lifesavers Conference is a national highway safety conference attended by hundreds of professionals in the fields of law enforcement, traffic safety, statewide and national highway safety planning, injury prevention and public health.

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board, managed by the [National Safety Council](http://www.nsc.org), seeks to maintain the quality and integrity of the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program. The program is used to train and certify child passenger safety technicians and instructors. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS Board, please visit the Board’s website at www.cpsboard.org.

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