



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 NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

Suzanne Cash LeDoyen from Wake County Human Services Public Health Center was just named “National Child Passenger Safety Instructor of the Year” by the National Child Passenger Safety Board. 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 vehicle crashes. The U.S. currently has more than 1700 certified child passenger safety technician instructors who train to certify technicians to install and educate caregivers on the proper use of car and booster seats. The National Child Passenger Safety Board recognizes one exemplary instructor for their work and dedication to this field annually during the Lifesavers Conference, a national highway safety conference aimed to educate public health, injury prevention, law enforcement and traffic safety advocacy professionals.

Suzanne has been a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician for 14 years and an instructor for five years. She was named North Carolina’s Instructor of the Year in 2014. She holds a degree in Public Health from East Carolina University and is also nationally certified as an Instructor with the American Red Cross, and as a Childbirth and Parenting Instructor. Suzanne works with a team of nurses, social workers and case managers who made the commitment to become CPS technicians in addition to their existing job responsibilities. The team provides monthly car seat checks and also operates a permanent safety seat “fitting station” for the Wake County community. Suzanne and her co-workers became passionate about preventing crash-related injuries as the result of witnessing a high number of unrestrained children. “We must diligently work to bring awareness to our communities and help people realize that we all have a part to play in the safety of children,” said LeDoyen.

The biggest challenge in assuring children are transported safely are often caused by language barriers and economic conditions. She insures that her team is comprised of many bi-lingual technicians. She commented, “I’ve found that many parents have to make decisions about what their budget will allow, choosing between having an appropriate child restraint for their child, or paying for rent, utilities and food. Many times the child restraint doesn’t make the list.”

As “Instructor of the Year”, this Loisburg and Buies Creek, North Carolina native demonstrates respect for the instructors who certified and mentored her, saying, “I learned something from each and every instructor I’ve had the opportunity to work with.” It is evident that the respect is mutual; Suzanne was nominated by two fellow instructors. Instructor Linda Wyandt wrote, “Suzanne maintains a training and car seat distribution program to meet the needs of her clientele as well as the community at large by having seat check clinics at least monthly at her agency and additionally at neighborhood libraries throughout the county. She makes herself available to assist any Tech in the state of North Carolina and is passionate about improving the safety of children in cars. She has been an active member of Wake County Safe Kids for over ten years and has served in numerous leadership roles for that organization.”

In addition to a supportive instructor team, she also credits her supportive husband of 17 years, Jason, who understands the long hours, including nights and weekends required to conduct effective community education. They enjoy traveling, attending East Carolina University football games, their Golden Retriever, Zoey, and spending time with their young nieces and nephew.

Suzanne shared her secret for maintaining motivation in the child passenger safety and injury prevention field, “I was raised that it is better to serve than to be served. I get great pleasure and satisfaction from my work. I truly believe you get more out of life the more you put into it; if I’m not enthusiastic and passionate about my work how could I expect the technicians I instruct to be? I simply refuse to be anything less.”

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board, managed by the [National Safety Council](#), 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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