



NATIONAL
**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY BOARD**

A program managed by the National Safety Council

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Northern New Jersey Safe Kids/Safe Communities Receives Team of the Year Award

Feury rallies child passenger safety advocates to adapt in a world of change

During the pandemic, the Northern New Jersey Safe Kids/Safe Communities team was forced to find new ways to keep children safe. In-person car seat checkup events and safety workshops designed to educate parents and caregivers were postponed.

Like so many others across the country, the team found safety solutions by tapping into a creative thinking mindset. Team members offered virtual car seat checks by appointment. They provided free car seats and installation education as part of a new child passenger training program for local agencies reaching under-served populations. They pulled together under the leadership of Karen Jean (K.J.) Feury, coalition coordinator, nurse practitioner and injury prevention specialist at Morristown Medical Hospital.

Feury works with her colleagues to ensure family services are provided in communities across a three-county region. She also works to ensure a team of 26 Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technicians and Instructors stays on top of its game, no matter the environment, by organizing continuing education opportunities. In September, the coalition staged a socially distanced National Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training course, the first of its kind in New Jersey following the implementation of pandemic restrictions.

One telltale sign K.J. and her fellow CPS advocates are succeeding: positive feedback. They regularly receive comments such as this from people they've touched: "I came for an installation, but I got an education."

Those words speak to the reasoning behind the selection of Northern New Jersey Safe Kids/Safe Communities as the Child Passenger Safety Team of the Year by the [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#). The award is sponsored by [Toyota Motor North America](#).

“K.J. Feury will be the first to tell you the strength of the team is each individual member,” National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Lonny Haschel said. “When everyone is moving forward together, success takes care of itself.”

Since March 2019, Northern New Jersey Safe Kids/Safe Communities Technicians have operated six car seat inspection stations, including one at the Atlantic Health Ambulance Building in Livingston. They’ve expanded the reach of their website and social media channels by utilizing local mom groups and other family and civic groups to help spread the word of keeping kids safe in vehicles. They take pride in the fact that over the years they’ve presented CPS education to the largest number of parents and caregivers in the state of New Jersey.

Feury will tell you: Some members of the team are best at classroom education. Some are outstanding with hands-on car seat installation education. Some are planners and organizers. Some broadcast safety messages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Others bring joy and laughter in stressful times.

“They’ve inspired many to become more involved in child passenger safety by providing a solid foundation,” said Haschel. “Some have built upon that foundation and moved into the role of instructor. That speaks to the passion and dedication of the entire team.”

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board, a program managed by the National Safety Council, seeks to maintain the quality and integrity of the National Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training. 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