



NATIONAL
**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY BOARD**

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Jackie Stackhouse Leach Receives Child Passenger Safety Instructor of the Year Award

New Jersey woman remains a steadfast leader throughout pandemic

ITASCA, IL – Jackie Stackhouse Leach is considered the “first lady” of child passenger safety in New Jersey by those who know how many lives she has impacted through education and training.

Stackhouse Leach earned a degree from Seton Hall University. Afterward, she spent time empowering persons with disabilities. Then, she took a break from full-time employment to raise her two sons, Zachary and Christian. One day she visited a car seat inspection station and realized she was destined to be a different kind of educator, working to prioritize child passenger safety from that day forward.

Today, Stackhouse Leach is recognized for her efforts over the last 16 years as the National Child Passenger Safety Instructor of the Year by the [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#). The award is sponsored by [Toyota Motor North America](#).

In 2004, she became a nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. Under the guidance of her mentor, Tim Larney, she quickly graduated to the role of Instructor. Now, Stackhouse Leach and her CPS team schedule and run most of the certification classes in the northern section of New Jersey. She supervises seven inspection sites across three counties.

She regularly works with child restraint manufacturers to create CEU opportunities for technicians. She travels to oversee skills evaluations across the state. And she is credited with raising special needs transportation and school bus training opportunities and training others to teach these CPS enrichment courses.

“We are very happy to recognize Jackie Stackhouse Leach,” National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Mandi Seethaler said. “Her teaching skills set her apart. With Jackie, it’s education, not installation. She prepares technicians so they are able to educate caregivers during interactions. And she works with technicians who demonstrate higher skill levels to become instructors.”

Stackhouse Leach works as health educator and Child Passenger Safety Instructor at Morristown Medical Center. Thirteen years ago, she encouraged Northern New Jersey Safe Kids/Safe Communities to partner with the Chester First Aid Squad. She has been a volunteer at the inspection station for 27 years. By looking at the demographics of visitors to the station, she has been able to close gaps in underserved communities.

“I am grateful for all my support over the years, and I would be remiss if I didn’t mention both of my sons,” she said. “Zachary, who has a Master’s degree in leadership and public administration, recently became a CPS Instructor. Christian will continue to use his certification during his community policing. They both have been the rock behind my growth, and I will forever be grateful for their support as I continue to grow with the evolving child passenger safety program.”

Stackhouse Leach lives in Long Valley, NJ. She has won a number of safety awards, including the 2020 Carl P. Valenziano MD, Injury Prevention Award, and the 2020 State of New Jersey Senate Citation for 25 years volunteering.

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