



NATIONAL
**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY BOARD**

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Victoria Chandler Receives Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year Award
Her warmth puts parents and caregivers at ease during car seat checkup events

ITASCA, IL – When Victoria Chandler started her new position as the injury prevention coordinator with the trauma services team at Ascension Via Christi, a teaching hospital in Wichita, Kan., she also started down another new path.

In 2020, she became a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician and took over as coordinator of the Safe Kids Wichita Area CPS program. She quickly gained experience working alongside her team during car seat check events at a local firehouse, while also building her reputation as a leader unafraid to answer the call during a period when COVID restrictions were in place.

By 2022, this “new kid” was being recognized as if an old child passenger safety hand. In fact, she was named the Kansas Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year, and her Safe Kids Wichita Area agency was recognized as the Kansas Child Passenger Safety Station of the Year.

Today, Chandler is the recipient of the National Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year award, presented by the [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#). The award is sponsored by [Toyota Motor North America](#).

She was singled out for her:

- Commitment to transportation safety
- Ability to educate parents and caregivers

“The people who know Victoria well use words like integrity, kindness, warmth, intelligence, generosity and caring to describe her,” National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Jennifer

Pelky said. “We know her as a Technician who works to provide education to parents and caregivers. She helps them understand how – and why – it is important to properly install car seats. Keeping kids safe is her top priority. We’re proud to recognize her for this work.”

Chandler, in her role at Ascension Via Christi, oversees injury prevention training programs for the hospital, nearby healthcare facilities and the implementation of community education programs. She recently has expanded Safe Kids Wichita Area efforts into Spanish and Vietnamese neighborhoods.

“It is heartbreaking for me to see young children not in car seats,” Chandler said. “Most of the time, the reason is they are not aware. So, having these car seat events every two weeks allows me and our CPS Techs to educate and assist with car seat distribution when needed – with help from our Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office. We serve one child at a time.”

Ascension Via Christi has served as the lead agency for the Safe Kids Wichita Area coalition for more than 30 years.

“This is not the work of one person,” Chandler said. “This is a collaboration – the work of a team.”

Chandler lives in Wichita with her husband, Rich, their 17-year-old son, Brandon, and three dogs. The family owns and operates a Dojo – Premier Martial Arts. Rich heads the operation. Brandon is an assistant instructor. “My husband says I’m like the Wizard of Oz – the woman behind the curtain,” Victoria jokes. “I call it a character-building facility.”

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board’s mission is to save lives and prevent injuries by promoting child passenger safety through education, mentorship, engagement and innovation. The Board’s work is managed by the National Safety Council. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS Board, please visit the Board’s website at www.cpsboard.org