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**Child Passenger  
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**Danielle Kessenger Receives Child Passenger Safety Instructor of the Year Award**

Florida Woman Recognizes Transportation Safety Need and Works to Find a Solution

ITASCA, IL – In July 2023, Danielle Kessenger gave birth to her new baby, Silver Linings Safety, a limited liability company with a focused mission: to develop or revitalize Child Passenger Safety programs at public and private service agencies in north Florida and southeast Georgia.

Kessenger, already the mother of three grown children and the grandmother of little Landon, 5, launched Silver Linings as a pathway for greater access to CPS Technician certification training courses and to open another advocate avenue for the safe transportation of all children. She is recognized today for her leadership as the National Child Passenger Safety Instructor of the Year. The award is presented by the [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#) and sponsored by [Toyota Motor North America](#).

“Danielle is known as an excellent educator and a person who sees a challenge and finds a solution,” National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Jim Savage said. “She gets the ‘voluntold’ students in her classes excited about child passenger safety. Equally important, she is the kind of person who sends everyone she interacts with home with a small piece of her heart. She is a mentor and a friend to CPS Techs and Instructors as well as to all of the parents and caregivers she has touched throughout the years.”

Kessenger’s twins were infants when child passenger safety first piqued her interest in 2000. She lived in Hawaii at the time and soon enrolled in a Technician certification course offered by the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition. Today, she works as an injury prevention professional in the child passenger safety program sponsored by Subaru of Jacksonville, Fla., at THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health at Wolfson Children’s Hospital. She also serves on the Florida Occupant Protection Coalition.

“I am always on the lookout for ways to offer assistance to families, agencies, groups – anyone that may want or need some help,” Danielle said. “I am the ‘Phone a Friend’ for many friends, families, advocates, Technicians and Instructors. When we put our heads together, we bounce

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ideas off each other and usually come up with something. I love to encourage people and look for silver linings in situations.”

Since she became a CPS Instructor, Kessenger estimates she has taught about 40 Technician certification courses and trained more than 250 students in the field of special needs transportation. Through her work in special needs education, she also has been able to reach child protection workers and foster parents.

When in the classroom, Danielle takes the time to understand how each student learns and tailors her approach accordingly, using inclusive language and often wearing fun items to demonstrate her commitment to safety and willingness to accept everyone.

“I have delivered training for community partners to empower their staff to transport children in a safe manner,” she says proudly. “I am so thankful for all of the Technicians, Instructors and advocates in this field who have helped me grow and learn over the last 20-plus years.”

Kessenger lives in Jacksonville with her three children and her grandson. She loves to play Bunco and visits Disneyworld whenever possible. She also takes every possible opportunity to spend time with her grandson at the park and library. Volunteering is near and dear to her heart. Currently, she serves on the board for Tribe Rehabilitation, which is active in providing accessible, high-quality multidisciplinary services to treat children from birth to age 5 with a variety of disabilities, including autism.

### **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](http://www.cpsboard.org)