

P1: Global Road Safety Week

P2 - P3: Activities

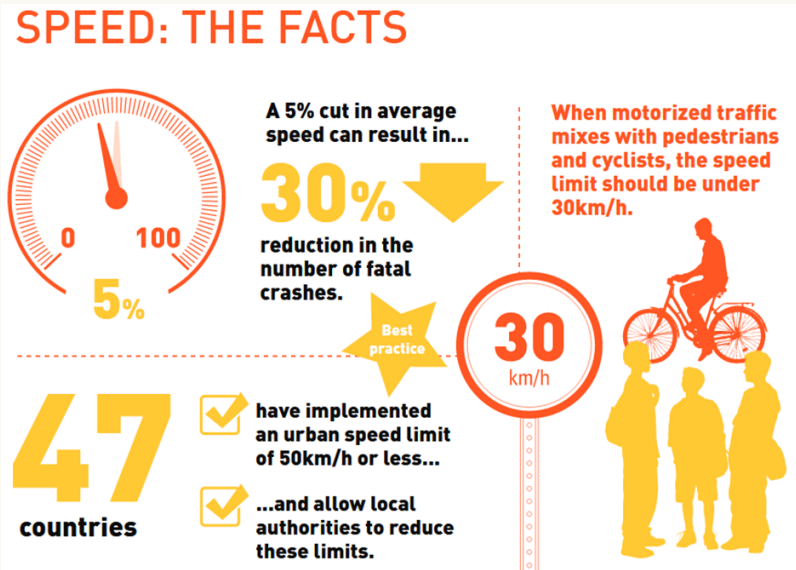
P4 - P5: Project Updates

# Global Road Safety Week 2017

## Save Lives: #SlowDown

The UN Road Safety Collaboration announced that the Fourth UN Global Road Safety Week will be held from 8-14 May 2017. The week will focus on speed and what can be done to address this key risk factor for road traffic deaths and injuries. Speed contributes to around one-third of all fatal road traffic crashes in high-income countries, and up to half in low- and middle-income countries.

Childsafe South Africa has planned a variety of activities to take place during this week which will seek to increase understanding of the dangers of speed and generate action on measures to address speed, thereby saving lives on the roads.



## Activities

### Springfield Primary School visit

The Head of Clinical Unit, Department of Paediatric Surgery at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital Dr Sharon Cox requested Childsafe to conduct child safety presentations to Grade 3 learners of Springfield Primary School.

Childsafe held the presentations on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of October. The presentations focused on three main issues and these were: fire prevention; safety in the kitchen and road safety.



### Family Education

Every Monday and Tuesday, Childsafe staff members see to patients at Trauma Unit who have been admitted with a preventable injury. The aim is to assist parents/caregivers with safety skills information, to create safer living spaces for their children and hopefully prevent future childhood injuries. No photos are taken during these sessions in adherence to strict hospital policies about patients' rights to confidentiality.

In addition to this, The Friends of the Children's Hospital Association (FOCHA) recruits parents from different wards to come to Childsafe premises on Fridays to attend safety sessions. These are parents whose children have been admitted at the Hospital for accidental injuries like burns and poisonings.



## Project Updates

### Safe Travel to School Award Ceremony

On 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2016, Childsafe gathered more than 450 school transporters and road safety stakeholders at the Athlone Civic Centre to acknowledge the safest drivers. The top prize was a brand 16 seater minibus, Nissan Impendulo (worth R395 000). This car was won by Mr William Lottering, a school driver from Manenberg.

The Programme works on making the journey to and from school safer by focusing on the driver. Through interventions the Programme is developing cohorts of road-safety aware, reliable and confident scholar transport drivers:

- Recruiting drivers onto the programme after checking their vehicles for roadworthiness
- Providing incentives for safer driving
- Testing drivers' eyesight and providing spectacles if necessary
- Training them in first aid and defensive driving



### Safe Schools Project

Isikhokelo Primary School has approximately 1188 learners, 90% of whom are pedestrians, mainly crossing the busy and hazardous Jeff Masemola Road. This road is high risk, with vehicles travelling at excessive speed and requires improved protection for the hundreds of children crossing at peak times to and from school.



On 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2016, all the learners in this school were provided with locally sourced reflective track-suit jackets. The main purpose for this was so as to increase their visibility in traffic while walking on these dangerous roads. Childsafe would like to thank IVECO for the generous sponsorship and support for this initiative.



## The Childsafe Student Initiative

As future health professionals, it is often frustrating to be constrained by the timetables, academic theory and clinical demands that face us throughout our studies. While understanding their necessity, these components often feel like obstructions to making a significant, positive impact in surrounding communities. We are energetic and eager to step out of our comfort zones, and develop practical skills in intervention, but we have needed an opportunity to do so.

And so it came about, midway through 2016, that a collaboration was formed between Childsafe South Africa, Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital (RXH) and students from the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town (UCT) – creating the Childsafe Student Initiative (CSI).

We are off to an exciting start this year. Having established a task team of 6 students to run the pilot project, we are offering fellow UCT students the opportunity to bridge their enthusiasm for patient empowerment and the improved livelihood of South Africa's children. The Initiative aims to cultivate an appreciation for, and skill in instituting, preventive education and public health interventions at a community level.

Approximately 30 student volunteers, welcomed from all UCT health professions, will attend a workshop on 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2017 as the project kicks into action. Childsafe's social workers will equip volunteers with the skills needed to host dynamic, supervised education evenings – where they will educate parents of children who have been admitted to the RXH trauma unit, deal with the emotional challenges faced, and be encouraged to develop further plans for innovative interventions — *Written by Kathleen Olmesdahl*



Left to right: Farai Chigumadzi, Constance Troxler-Bam, Kathleen Olmesdahl, Shimwe Gwimo, Mandisa Keswa, James van Duuren

## About

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A Campaign by the Child Accident Prevention  
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#### How to donate/become a member?

Get in touch via email, phone or mail for more information.