March 2017- ISSUE 96

KEEP KIDS FREE FROM HARM

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childsa

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NEWSLETTER

Global Road Safety Week 2017

Save Lives: #SlowDown

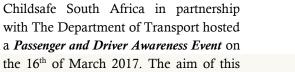
The UN Road Safety Collaboration announced that the Fourth UN Global Road Safety Week will be held from 8-14 May 2017. The week will focus on speed and what can be done to address this key risk factor for road traffic deaths and injuries. Speed contributes to around one-third of all fatal road traffic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

SPEED: THE FACTS

Childsafe South Africa A 5% cut in average When motorized traffic has planned a variety speed can result in... mixes with pedestrians and cyclists, the speed of activities to take limit should be under 30km/h. place during this week reduction in the which will seek to innumber of fatal crashes. crease understanding of the dangers of speed and generate action on have implemented an urban speed limit measures to address of 50km/h or less... speed, thereby saving ...and allow local countries authorities to reduce lives on the roads. these limits.

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Activities

the 16th of March 2017. The aim of this event was to create awareness about the importance of restraining children in motor vehicle. At the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital alone, approximately 20 children per month are treated for injuries sustained in motor vehicle collisions.

Passenger and Driver Awareness Event

Eighty percent (80%) of these injured children were not buckled up or restrained in any way at all. Most of these injuries could have been prevented through appropriate restraining. Car safety seats (child restraints) reduce the risk of death in passenger cars by 71% for infants, and 54% for toddlers. Unrestrained children are more likely to be injured, suffer severe injuries and die in motor vehicle crashes than children who are restrained.

Through the generous donation of 21 car seats from the Road Traffic Management Corporation, these were distributed to recipients on the day.

Professor van As reminding people the importance of buckling children in cars



The MEC of Transport Donald Grant handing a car seat to one of the recipients



Hailey from Wheel Well showing the recipient how to properly install car seats in the car



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





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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 3rd 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 24th of November 2016, all the learners in this school were provided with locally sourced reflective tracksuit 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.

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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 1st 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

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A Campaign by the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa, a member of Safe Kids Worldwide



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How to donate/become a member? Get in touch via email, phone or mail for more information.

