

Safe Kids Grand Forks: Protecting Our Children from Preventable Injuries for 30 Years

Being a parent is one of the most challenging jobs in the world, especially because it doesn't come with ready-made instructions. And keeping kids safe is arguably one of the most critical components to the parenting gig, especially when you consider the myriad of ways kids can potentially be injured. That's where Safe Kids Grand Forks comes in; for the past 30 years, Safe Kids has been educating parents, teachers and other stakeholders on how to keep kids safe "at home, at school, at play, and on the way." As a mom, I have seen the work of this impressive organization firsthand over the years - from the time my husband and I first learned how to safely buckle our newborn into her car seat, to seeing our daughters serve as crossing guard helpers, to hearing the excitement in our kids' voices as they shared the bike safety tips they had learned in school that day. Safe Kids was (and is) seemingly everywhere!

Since the launch of Safe Kids Grand Forks 30 years ago, Altru Health System has proudly served as the lead organization, supporting the coalition and its programs to help keep children in our communities safe. The program has grown tremendously over the years, adding staff members and initiatives as the needs for injury prevention continued to grow. The geographic coverage of Safe Kids has expanded as well, now extending throughout northeast North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.

Today, Safe Kids offers a multitude of impressive programs, including education on child passenger safety, farm safety, home safety, pedestrian safety, water safety and more. To a person, this small, but mighty, team of safety specialists are passionate about fulfilling their mission of keeping kids safe. They will even help folks on an individual basis to choose a safe car seat or bike helmet; simply send an email to safekids@altru.org to make an appointment at the Safe Kids office in Altru's East Grand Forks Clinic location.

Please join me in congratulating Safe Kids Grand Forks supervisor, Carma Hanson, and her fabulous team, on 30 years of providing exemplary service to our region. We also extend our thanks and congratulations to the many partner agencies who make Safe Kids the strong coalition that it is in our communities. We know their combined hard work has prevented countless injuries, and even childhood deaths, over the past 30 years, and we are deeply grateful for their efforts to keep our children safe "at home, at school, at play, and on the way."

For more information about Safe Kids Grand Forks, including a calendar of events and classes, please visit www.safekidsgf.com.

Submitted by Kristi Hall-Jiran, chief philanthropy and partnership officer at Altru. Originally published in Altru's February 2022 e-newsletter.