

NEW YORK

Teddy Bear Hospital Safety Day

▶ AT-A-GLANCE

▶ **Project Characteristics**
Innovative

▶ **Program Areas**
Youth Programs
Injury Prevention

▶ **Targeted Populations**
Children ages 5-9

▶ **Type of Jurisdiction**
County

▶ **Jurisdiction Size**
286,753

▶ **Funding**
Section 402: \$ 3,500
Other: \$5,000

▶ **Contact**
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Problem Identification

Good Samaritan Hospital is one of two Level 2 trauma centers that serve Rockland County. As such, the hospital is required to provide injury prevention services to the community. In addition, the hospital serves as the lead agency for Rockland County SAFE KIDS Coalition, an organization that strives to prevent injuries to children under 14.

A review of data from the trauma registry and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) revealed that, for a two year period, 1,000 to 5,000 children sustained injuries from bike and motor vehicle crashes, pedestrian injuries, and drowning. The Good Samaritan Trauma Department determined that this problem could best be addressed through the SAFE KIDS Coalition. Initially SAFE KIDS conducted health fairs and school assemblies; but SAFE KIDS identified the need for additional education about prevention of injuries as well as a means to decrease anxiety about being treated in an emergency room.

Goals and Objectives

The goals of the Teddy Bear Hospital Safety Day project are to decrease the number of children who are injured annually, reduce emergency room visits, and help children understand what happens in an emergency room.

To accomplish these goals, the coalition identified the following objectives:

- Design an educational program that is engaging and fun; and
- Provide an environment where children learn how to take better care of themselves, particularly in the areas of pedestrian, bicycle, home, and water safety.

Strategies and Activities

The Teddy Bear Safety Day project implemented the following strategies and related activities to achieve its goals:

- Developed and coordinated activities through the Rockland County SAFE KIDS Coalition and its affiliates.
- Joined with other agencies such as Good Samaritan Hospital, Rockland Paramedic Services, Rockland County Department of Health, Ramapo Police Department, and Helen Hayes Hospital to administer the project.
- Selected one elementary school in each county school district each year.
- Rotated schools every year in an effort to reach all children within the targeted age range.

- Took children on a class trip to Good Samaritan Hospital for a day of fun and educational activities.
- Requested that each child bring their favorite teddy bear or stuffed animal on the trip for use at the Teddy Bear Station.
- Created various stations to educate children. Stations include: The Teddy Bear Hospital Station, the Pedestrian Station, Grandma's House, and the Motor Vehicle Station.
 - Teddy Bear Hospital Station - This station demonstrates, in a non-threatening manner, what can happen when a child comes to an emergency room. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) students and an emergency room physician use teddy bears as "patients". Each bear receives an ID band with a diagnosis, is examined, and then receives the necessary treatment. Depending on the diagnosis, treatment could include applying a cast, taking x-rays and/or administering oxygen.
 - Pedestrian Station - This station teaches pedestrian safety using the children's game, "red-light - green light 1, 2, 3."
 - Grandma's House - This station lets children practice safe bicycling, and teaches the proper way to wear a helmet.
 - Motor vehicle Station- This station requires that each child demonstrate how to use a seatbelt correctly.
- Gave each child a card to take to the various safety stations. After completing each safety station, the police officer, fireman, or nurse punch each card. When each child has visited all four stations, the child turns the punched card in and receives a prize.

Results

The program is now in its fifth year and the response from the community has been extremely positive. The hospital has documented a 15 percent decrease in injuries to school-aged children since the inception of the program.