

'Buckle Up: Every Ride Every Time,' Says The Safe Kids Worldwide Organization

The GM Foundation reported that one in four parents and caregivers responding to a Safe Kids Worldwide survey said they have driven without making sure their children are safely secured in vehicles.

The report, funded as part of a \$2 million grant from the General Motors Foundation, is based on a national online survey of 1,002 parents and caregivers of children ages 10 and under. It reveals that one in four parents admit to having driven without their child buckled up in a car seat or booster seat, said foundation spokesperson Maria Mainville.

Safe Kids – an organization whose goal is to protect kids from unintentional injuries – released "Buckle Up: Every Ride, Every Time," Sept. 16 as part of National Child Passenger Safety Week, which began Sunday and continued through September 21.

"As kids grow up, it can be easy to forget the importance of taking time to buckle up, especially on a quick or overnight trip," said Mike Robinson, GM vice president of Sustainability and Global Regulatory Affairs, and a GM Foundation board member. "Unfortunately, exceptions can lead to tragedies. The research findings underscore the importance of remaining vigilant about buckling up throughout a child's lifetime. There is no reason important enough to take the risk."

Lori Wingerter, vice president of the GM Foundation, said that

when she saw the research, she was shocked – but also not shocked.

"The people who don't buckle up their kids can afford car seats," Wingerter said. "They tend to think they don't need to buckle their kids up for the short trip because 'we're only going to grandma's house.'"

"This research shows that it's the short trips where many of the accidents happen. I guess people think it won't happen to them."

So the foundation was glad to take the opportunity to publicize Child Passenger Safety Week, Wingerter said. People need to know about the dangers because it can happen to them.

Safe Kids Worldwide is a global

network of organizations dedicated to providing parents and caregivers with practical and proven resources to protect kids from unintentional injuries, the number one cause of death to children in the United States, Mainville said.

Throughout the world, almost one million children die of an injury each year, and almost all of these tragedies are preventable. Safe Kids works with an extensive network of more than 600 coalitions in the United States and in 23 countries to reduce traffic injuries, drownings, falls, burns, poisonings and more.

Since 1988, Safe Kids has helped reduce the U.S. childhood death rate from unintentional injury by 55 percent.

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Capuchin Party Aimed at Getting Teens Involved

The sixth annual "Second Helping Afterglow" party is set for Friday, Oct. 11, from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center. All profits benefit the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

The party takes place after the annual Support Our Capuchin Kitchen (SOCK) dinner, which will be held earlier during the evening of Oct. 11. The afterparty got its start back in 2008 when a group of young professionals created "Second Helping Afterglow" in the hope of getting the next generation involved with the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

"We realized all the good that the Capuchin Soup Kitchen does for our community and we wanted to create a fun event for Detroit's younger crowd that would support all the good work of the soup kitchen," said Mary Kay Jerneycic, co-organizer of the event. "In the six years of the event, we have raised thousands of dollars. It's an evening that allows Detroit's young professionals to help others."

The party will again be emceed by Fox 2's Roop Raj, Jerneycic said. Boogie Dynamite will be providing the entertainment.

Tickets can be purchased online via CSKDetroit.org, or by calling 313-579-2100, ext. 153.

The Capuchin Soup Kitchen was founded in 1929 and serves the people of Metro Detroit by providing food, clothing and counsel to those in need.

The kitchen typically prepares and serves 2,000 meals a day. The organization also distributes household items and operates a shower program, food pantry and children's tutoring and art therapy program. Its Earthworks Urban Farm program produces vegetables for Detroit's hungry. The kitchen's Reaching Our Potential Everyday (ROPE) ministry is designed to help individuals reenter society after prison or bouts of substance abuse.

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