

Safe Kids Walk This WaySM

2009 Environmental Task Force Final Report

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Safe Kids USA invited all United States Safe Kids coalitions and chapters to submit proposals for improving walking conditions for child pedestrians in their communities. Through funding from Walk This Way program sponsor FedEx, 10 Safe Kids coalitions were awarded a total of \$97,569 to support new or existing pedestrian safety task forces. The task forces leveraged their initial grants to successfully raise an additional \$51,853 in matching funds from local and national organizations to support their projects.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Safe Kids Grand Forks, IN, installed “your speed” radar signs on existing school speed zone signs at two locations on 13th Avenue South. This location offers coverage for the school during the school year and at a local park and pool during the summer months. The task force also participated in the ATAC School Site Study in the spring of 2009, which looked at traffic patterns around Lewis & Clark Elementary and provided recommendations on increasing pedestrian safety around the school. Safe Kids Grand Forks participated in training over 80 patrol officers concerning pedestrian safety issues and the need for increased enforcement in school zones.

Safe Kids Huron Valley, MI, relocated the signalized pedestrian crossing on Packard Road to the west side of the intersection. The task force also installed a new crosswalk and brought all pedestrian ramps to current American with Disabilities Act standards. In addition, new school crossing signage was updated for the crosswalk that brought all school signs to current Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices standards. High visibility pavement markings at the new crosswalk location were also installed.

Safe Kids Los Angeles West, CA, is installing speed bumps and solar-powered signs to reduce the speed of motorists. The task force installed traffic cones and stationed crossing guards in the area surrounding Berendo Middle School. Installation of the signs at Berendo Middle School will take place in April 2010.

Safe Kids Peoria, IL, installed a school zone beacon flashing light and completed a traffic speed assessment in their target area around St. Patrick School in Washington. Police anecdotally reported that there was a decrease of number of drivers above the speed limit on both of the days of traffic assessment after the lights were installed. The task force also installed two signs and repaired four crosswalks using thermoplastic around drop-off/pick-up zones in target area. The students participated in a number of education activities throughout the year including an essay contest, photojournalism project, poster drawings, pre/post tests and a bicycle safety rodeo.

RESULTS

During 2009 the task forces convened 73 meetings, hosted 65 media events to educate the public about the interventions and completed 392 engineering modifications including the installation of:

- 30 radar speed feedback signs
- 4 pedestrian signals
- 17 flashing beacon lights
- 18 school zone signs
- 5 crosswalks
- 1,018 feet of sidewalk
- 30 pedestrian safety signs
- 300 reflective post sleeves

