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Contact: Diana Rubin, Safe Kids Worldwide
(202) 662-0609
drubin@safekids.org

OR: Daphne Greenlee, Safe Kids Springfield
(417) 869-2121 or (417) 224-3550
dgreenlee@nscozarks.org

Safe Kids Springfield Honored as Safe Kids USA's "Coalition of the Year" for Child Safety Work

Washington, DC — Safe Kids Springfield was named Safe Kids USA's "Coalition of the Year" at Safe Kids Worldwide's 2007 Child Injury Prevention Conference on October 18, 2007. The coalition was selected from 650 Safe Kids coalitions and chapters in the United States for its achievements in preventing accidental injuries, the leading killer of children 14 and under. Accidental injuries include car crashes, drowning, poisoning and burns, among others.

"It's a privilege to work to protect the children in the Ozarks by educating parents and caregivers about how to prevent accidental injury to their children," said Daphne Greenlee, Coalition Coordinator of Safe Kids Springfield. "The collaboration of our member agencies has been invaluable to our success," she added, "allowing us to reach families in a variety of settings with important safety messages."

Safe Kids Springfield is widely recognized as a leader in child safety. The Coordinator is viewed as an excellent resource, often called upon to present at national conferences, provide mentoring services to other Safe Kids Coordinators, and work with media to distribute safety information. The coalition's membership is diverse and includes businesses, individuals, nonprofit organizations and other partners. In the past several years, the Safe Kids coalition has grown from six members to more than 80 participating organizations and has successfully made environmental changes that benefit children. The Coalition has raised safety awareness through events such as Safe Kids Boot Camp, Safe Kids Day at the Ballpark, car seat check up events at local Chevy dealers, purchasing countdown crosswalk signals at elementary school locations, and providing educational programs and public awareness campaigns. Safe Kids Springfield members were also very instrumental in the August 2006 passage of Missouri's booster seat law.

"We're delighted that Safe Kids Springfield has received this wonderful recognition for their efforts, and we are proud to support them," said Debora Biggs, Executive Director of the Safety Council of the Ozarks, the lead agency for Safe Kids Springfield. "There is truly no more important work than saving the lives of children and assuring our community's future."

"Safe Kids Springfield is a remarkable leader in the child safety arena, working tirelessly each day to prevent accidental injury and death – the leading killer of children 14 and under," said Dr. Marty Eichelberger, founder and director of Safe Kids Worldwide. "There is no more important work than keeping our children – our most precious resource, and our future – safe from harm, and they do this extraordinarily well."

Safe Kids Springfield works to prevent accidental childhood injury, the leading killer of children 14 and under in ten counties in southwest Missouri—Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Laclede, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster. Its members include representatives from local fire, police and health departments, hospital, clinic, traffic organizations, nonprofit agencies, businesses and families. Safe Kids Springfield is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing accidental injury. Safe Kids Springfield was founded in 1989 and is led by the Safety Council of the Ozarks. For more information about Safe Kids Springfield, visit the website at www.safekidsspringfield.org

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