



Bridging Generations Winter 2009

Program Update:

New Contribution:

We would like to thank the United Way of the Lower Mainland for investing in our organization. They will be contributing a one time lump sum to help VG grow to the next level.



Volunteer Grandparents is excited to announce our new partnership with a wonderful organization, **Kids up Front.**

Founded in Calgary in 1999, Kids up Front identified an opportunity to provide entertainment and educational opportunities to kids in need and their families through the distribution of unused tickets and special events...providing a sense of discovery, dreams and possibilities, one ticket at a time.

If you would like to learn more about this program please contact Veronica—604-736-8271



*We would like to wish all of
our wonderful volunteers,
families and
Board Members a
happy holiday season!*

Bridging and enriching generations since 1973



Child Passenger Safety is a Family Affair

USE APPROVED, UN-EXPIRED CHILD CAR SEATS APPROPRIATELY.

The next time you take the kids for an outing in the car ask yourself, “Will they be safe?” Kids are small, fragile, growing human beings and they need special attention. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles – all family members – including babysitters, often forget safety practices, or don’t give safety a second thought. That negligence could have devastating consequences.

To begin, the safest place in a vehicle for a child 12 or under is in the back seat. If children do ride in the front seat, the passenger side air bag should be turned off, as a deploying air bag could cause a fatal injury to the child.

Appropriately using child restraints is also vitally important. Many of those responsible for the safety of a child in a vehicle aren’t aware that it is against the law for children to not be appropriately restrained in a car seat or booster seat.

Diana Newton is a volunteer grandparent who also happens to work for BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation. When she took her grand boys on an outing to a baseball game, she didn’t think the booster seats being used by the family were safe.

“The seats were worn and battered looking. After speaking with Jani Jones, one of our Child Passenger Safety educators, I suggested to the parents that they have a look at their seats to find out whether they were safe and to check to see if they were expired. The father did so and discovered that they were, indeed, expired. Within a few days, we all attended the Volunteer Grandparents annual picnic and I had asked if I could bring along some Traffic Safety Foundation information and speak to the parents and volunteer grandparents. They made some time for me and, as a result of my talk my grand boys’ parents bought new seats the very next day. My impassioned little speech made an impression! Now I know they are safe!”

According to BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation, approximately 95 percent of people use child seats but only 40 per cent of kids who should be using booster seats actually are. Proper use of child seat and booster seat restraints can reduce the risk of injury or death by as much as 85 per cent.

Marg Deibert, BCAA TSF’s Child Passenger Safety program manager is also passionate about child safety. “Responsibility starts at home, and that includes all family members. Whatever the reason, financial, convenience, or the desire to be environmentally friendly, many people make a judgmental error by using second-hand child or booster seats. Unfortunately, many of these seats are being used beyond their expiry date, and the plastic can become weakened, rendering the seat unsafe.”

For more information about child car seats and child passenger safety, speak with a certified child passenger safety educator. Call BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation at 1-877-247-5551, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Or visit www.ChildSeatInfo.ca or www.BoostBC.ca.

To enquire about becoming a volunteer grandparent, contact Veronica Grossi at Volunteer Grandparents at 604-736-8271.