

**County** Cleveland County DSS  
**Department of Social Services**

**Submitted By** Mary Eppers

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**Project Title** Vehicle Protection

**Category** Profiles in Community Collaboration  
(Please select one)

### **Project Description and Summary**

**What did you do?**

**Describe your program or project. What did you do? What is the history behind the program/project? What did you hope to accomplish? What was your timeline? Your budget? How did you identify your objectives? How well did you use available resources?**

Hot Vehicles are Deadly for our Children

Safe Kids is a Worldwide organization that is helping to protect children from unintentional injuries. In North Carolina, there are several local chapters. Our agency serves as a member of our local chapter. Our agency works collaboratively to share ideas and implement community plans to keep children safe. Each year, children in our county are left in vehicles

during the summer months. Our agency and Safe Kids were concerned about children being injured or dying by being left in a hot vehicle during the summer months. Our agency wanted to bring awareness to our community of the dangers and horrific outcomes that can and will occur if you leave a child or baby in a hot vehicle. Moreover, we wanted to provide a realistic situation that parents could see that would prevent a child or baby from ever being left in a hot vehicle. We utilized resources through Safe Kids for this project. The project did not cost our agency anything. We planned the event through meetings. We also talked with the media and had local coverage that was also picked up by a larger news station out of Charlotte.

### **Project Success and Impact**

#### **What was the outcome?**

**Was your program/project a success? What was the impact? How did you measure the impact? How widespread is the impact of your program/project? How were you able to overcome obstacles and challenges? Did your program/project meet your established objectives?**

On July 27, 2017, our agency hosted an event to warn parents and caretakers about the danger of leaving children in Hot Vehicles. Families were able to see the temperature outside the car vs the inside of the car. They were able to see that it only took a minute to make a Smore's dessert inside a hot vehicle. The vehicle actually became a hot oven. The vehicle is a deadly weapon that can injure children or babies who are left in a hot car in just a few minutes. Approximately 40 visitors stopped by to listen and watch the Smore melt in the hot car. The four - hour event attracted lots of attention and the message was more widespread because of the great media coverage that this event received. We received great feedback from the public about this event. We are hopeful that we receive no reports of children being left in hot vehicles.

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