

Canandaigua Hops on Board to Keep Community Children Safe

The Kiwanis Club of **CANANDAIGUA**, Finger Lakes Division – In mid-February, the Young Children Priority One (YCPO) committee of the Canandaigua, New York Kiwanis Club met to brainstorm ideas for a child safety project. A few great ideas surfaced and a second meeting was planned to discuss which one the club would like to pursue first. In the two short weeks between meetings, word came to us of a new New York State law requiring booster seats for all children

between the ages of 4 and 7. The problem seemed to be that very few people in the community were even aware of the new law. True to our mission of serving the children in our community, the YCPO committee jumped into action...or should we say "hopped" into action.

YCPO decided to give away 100 booster seats free to the community. The next issue was how to reach those that would need the seats, especially since most people weren't



Local police, along with a number of State troopers helped at the Easter Egg Hunt by providing information on the new NYS booster seat law. Four State troopers are pictured here with Canandaigua Kiwanis President Barb Natale and Secretary Trish Hook.



Two of the youngest egg hunters enjoyed picking up some of the 7,000 plastic eggs stuffed with jelly beans.

<u>LONG ISLAND SOUTH CENTRAL</u>	Start of Year	Net Change	Month End	Missing Reports
Bellmores (The)	31		31	Oct Jan Feb Mar Apr
East Meadow	152	3	155	Mar Apr
Elmont	17	-1	16	Apr
Franklin Square	52	11	63	Oct Nov Apr
Garden City	59	12	71	Apr
Hempstead	27	1	28	
Lakeview	25	-5	20	
Levittown	60	5	65	
Massapequa	56	-4	52	
Merrick	74	11	85	
Nassau County Court Houses	43	-2	41	Apr
Nassau County Young Professionals	13		13	Oct Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr
Nassau University Medical Center	26	-6	20	
Seaford Evening	20	2	22	
Town Hall of Hempstead	30		30	Dec
Uniondale	18		18	Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr
Wantagh	72	1	73	Feb Mar Apr
West Hempstead	24		24	
Totals	799	28	827	28
<u>LONG ISLAND SOUTHWEST</u>	Start of Year	Net Change	Month End	Missing Reports
Baldwin	29	1	30	
East Rockaway	28		28	Feb Mar Apr
Five Towns (The)	61	3	64	
Freeport	24	-2	22	
Island Park, Long Island	29		29	
Long Beach	21	10	31	
Oceanside	43		43	Mar Apr
Peninsula (The), Hewlett	65	-1	64	
Roosevelt	12	3	15	Jan Feb Mar Apr
Valley Stream	16	-3	13	
Totals	328	11	339	9
<u>METROPOLITAN</u>	Start of Year	Net Change	Month End	Missing Reports
Brighton, Staten Island	25		25	Apr
Chinatown, New York City	36		36	
New York City Young Professionals	27	4	31	
North Central Staten Island	23		23	Jan Feb Mar Apr
Richmond County	25	Missing	25	Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr
Richmond County, Golden K	20	-3	17	Nov Jan
South Shore, Staten Island	32	Missing	32	Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr
Staten Island	42	3	45	Mar Apr
Totals	230	4	234	23

aware of the law. In addition, 100 booster seats could get very expensive so sources needed to be identified. The solution of venue seemed obvious; in only 4 weeks, the club would hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt at the local elementary school which typically attracted a large number of area children. With many details to iron out and a limited budget, YCPO went to work.

Assistance was obtained from various sources: the New York State Police agreed to provide 24 seats obtained from grant monies and staff the hunt to provide information on car/booster seats and the new law; WalMart agreed to purchase the additional 76 seats and sell them to the club for a discounted price that fit the budget; and a newly-formed chapter of National Safe Kids helped coordinate with all of the involved parties and staff the event with a table full of safety information for parents.

After only a few short weeks and a great deal of legwork, the Easter Egg Hunt and Booster Seat Giveaway was successfully held on Saturday, March 19, 2005 and attracted over 400 children, along with their parents. Over 7,000 eggs were collected to



DPG Patrick Cooney passes out a beautiful Easter basket to the excited winner.

the delight of the children and all 100 seats were given to parents of children between the ages of 4 and 7. Many parents commented to Kiwanis members about "what a great event this was for the community" and "this is a very special thing that you do."

The event was a true testament to the good that a Kiwanis club can do in its community, even with limited time and money.

Troy Holds Annual Chestnut Roast



The Kiwanis Club of **TROY, NEW YORK**, Van Rensselaer Division – roasted chestnuts at the Annual Troy Victorian Stroll. Pictured from left to right are: Bill Aram, a participant in the Victorian Stroll dressed in Victorian garb, Barbara Wyman and Scott Morley.

The money raised from this event will be used by the Club for donations back to the community.