

Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

April 2, 2012, 2012

**Contact: Mary Proctor
517-437-7395, ext. 137
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Safe Kids of Branch County to Host Free Child Passenger Safety Certification Course

Coldwater. This May, Safe Kids Coalition of Branch County will be providing a Child Passenger Safety Certification course. The free, 4-day training will be held on May 10, 11, 17, and 18th at the CHC of Branch County's Community Care and Conference Center. The conference center is located at 370 E. Chicago St. in Coldwater (at the location of old K-Mart.) The training will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. It will conclude with a public car seat inspection scheduled on the 18th. The course involves indoor and outdoor hands-on training. Participants that attend all sessions will be eligible to become a certified technician.

Coalition Coordinator Mary Proctor states, "Currently, Branch County only has 2 certified technicians to assist in installing and educating parents on the correct usage of car seats. More technicians are needed for a community of this size." In a 2009 study of vehicle crashes conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, properly used child safety seats (car seats) decreased the risk of death by 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers. Injury risks for children using belt positioning booster seats as opposed to seat belts alone were reduced by 59%. According to Mary Proctor, "Buckling up the right way on every ride is the single most important thing a family can do. But finding the safest way for each member to travel safely can be confusing. That is why having certified child passenger safety technicians to turn to for expert advice is so important."

Funding for this course is provided by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning and the US Department of Transportation. All course materials are included. If anyone has questions or is interested in attending this class, please contact Mary Proctor at 517-437-7395 ext. 137. Space is limited to 20 participants.

Safe Kids Coalition Branch County is part of a nationwide network of organizations working to prevent unintentional childhood injury. Unintentional childhood injury is the leading cause of death, injury and disability for children ages 1 to 14. We believe all children should grow up safe, healthy and injury free. Safe Kids Coalition is lead by the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency.

#