International Walk to School Day was held on October 7th. To celebrate, Safe Kids Indiana partnered with the Marion County Traffic Safety Partnership, FedEx, IMPD, and Loving Care in Pike Township to deliver twelve pedestrian safety programs to 662 children over the course of nine days. The children learned valuable pedestrian safety lessons via classroom lecture and the reading of “Longest Shortcut to Grandma’s House.” They also participated in a community walk, where they were able to demonstrate the skills learned in the classroom. Halloween safety lessons were also incorporated into the presentations and FedEx provided reflective trick-or-treat bags to all of the children and their siblings. At the conclusion of the program, the children were presented with “goodie bags,” compliments of FedEx, Safe Kids Indiana, and the Automotive Safety Program. The program boasted over 100 volunteers. A special thank you to the program sponsors and to Loving Care for welcoming us into their schools and being such wonderful, attentive students!
So, have you ever been asked to give a presentation or talk with the media and you need help with some statistics, research, or talking points? Visit the Safe Kids Action Center on the Intranet and find injury fact sheets on a variety of safety topics, including the newly released shopping cart safety publication. Log in and click through the following sequence to access some great tools for your initiatives: Resources, Research, and then Injury Fact Sheets.

“The Facts about the Tracks,” a railroad safety program designed by Safe Kids Indiana for children in grades K-6, was introduced to Pike Township Loving Care in November. The program teaches children basic safety tips, sign recognition, and the dangers of playing on or near trains. One hundred and fifty students from Fishback Creek Elementary, Eagle Creek Elementary, and New Augusta South Public Academy participated in the program. A special thank you to Operation Lifesaver for the donation of coloring books and bookmarks.

Traffic Safety Mini-Grant applications are now available. Chapters in good standing will be awarded grants based on their previous year’s activity. Grant amounts will range between $250 and $1,000. Applications can be found on the www.preventinjury.org website and are due no later than March 31st.

“Save the Date” boxes:

The 2010 Indiana Injury Prevention Conference will be held on Thursday, May 13th and Friday, May 14th, 2010 at University Place Conference Center and Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. Information for the conference will be sent via email, so please make sure the Automotive Safety Program has a current email address on file for you. Additional information will be sent in January. Questions may be directed to Autumn McNichols at 317.278.3218 or autmcnic@iupui.edu. Mark your calendars. You won’t want to miss it! Hope to see you there.

“Halloween 2009” boxes:

As a continuation of the Walk this Way program, Safe Kids Indiana participated in the Seventh Annual Decatur Township Fire Department’s Halloween Event on Saturday, October 31st. This four-hour event is designed to keep children safe by trick-or-treating in a confined area monitored by safety personnel. There were over 6,000 children who attended the event. Total attendance was estimated to be 10,000. At the event, Safe Kids Indiana and program partners FedEx and Marion County Traffic Safety Partnership provided children with reflectors, traffic safety coloring books, crayon packs, pencils, and a host of other items. Parents were provided with pedestrian safety brochures and an informational sheet on Halloween dangers.

Mr. Pumpkin (designed by Mr. Litts, New Augusta North Public Academy) made his debut in our Halloween coloring contest.

Ann Perkins, FedEx, hands out treats to children on Halloween.