

SAFE KIDS—Distributes and Fits Helmets to Kids in Dixie County

Shands Safe Kids helped to supply and fit new helmets on all the 1,080 elementary school children in Dixie County. With the help of Safe Kids Florida, Alachua County Fire and Rescue, Dixie County EMS and the Dixie County School System, Safe Kids provided a properly fitted helmet to each child at Anderson Elementary in Cross City and Old Town Elementary in Old Town.

Each class received important information about bike and vehicle safety before receiving their own helmet. Helmets were provided by a grant from the Department of Transportation and Shands Safe Kids. Volunteers from Safe Kids and the other agencies listed above assisted with properly fitting each helmet.

"This is our first event of this kind in Dixie County and we hope to continue to grow our safety education programs in this area," said Mindy Underberger of Safe Kids at Shands Children's Hospital. "We are committed to working with parents, teachers and community groups who are looking to provide safety education and tools to children."

To find out more information on the importance of helmet use and proper helmet fitting, visit www.shandssafekids.org or call (352) 265-0543 for more information.

Bicycles are associated with more childhood injuries than any other consumer product except the automobile.

In 2001, 134 children ages 14 and under died in bicycle-related crashes and in 2002, hospital emergency rooms treated 288,900 children with bicycle-related injuries.

Safe Kids North Central Florida is seeking new member organizations and volunteers to establish new partnerships in the eight county area. Groups or individuals should call Mindy Underberger at (352) 265-0543 for more information.



Shands Safe Kids Coordinator Mindy Underberger explains to a class of fourth graders at Old Town Elementary School why wearing a helmet is so important when riding a bike or any wheeled vehicle. Volunteers stand by to begin fitting helmets after the lesson.

SAFE KIDS


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Florida*

Shands
Shands Children's Hospital
P.O. Box 100386
Gainesville, FL 32610-0386

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