

Locals line up for child safety day, others walk for sexual assault awareness

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Parents stood in line for up to half an hour for their children's safety on Saturday morning.

At a four-hour free safety clinic in north Napa, sponsored by the National Center for Child Safety and Awareness, Napa dentist Adrian Fenderson and the California Automobile Association offered parents the opportunity to record their child's own safety journal.



Clayton D'Angelo 6, smiles for ID action Photo

Meanwhile across town, about 30 people took part in the "Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes" as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

"Every year I sponsor a child-safe community event. This is the first year I have worked with the National Center for Child Safety and Awareness. We expect to have more than 400 families show up today," Fenderson said. "We are doing this to help our community. Napa County is not immune to child abduction or missing children. If such a terrible thing should happen to a family, they will have records, DNA and fingerprints of their children. This is state-of-the art stuff."

Moms and dads lined up with their kids to have their child safety-proofed. Each parent left the safety fair with a folder containing their child's DNA, fingerprints and a video.

Steve Adams, with Life Print, had his hands full taking saliva swabs for DNA samples from the anxious youngsters.

"You really want some of my spit?" said 4-year-old Drake Hunter Stensby. "OK, here I go. Do you want me to spit on that that stick? That tickles."

Drake's mother, Amy King, also brought her niece Stevie King, 12, and 9-year-old nephew Jesse King to the safety fair.

"It's so important to have this information on your children. We don't like to think anything might happen to our kids, but we have to be realistic. It can happen to anyone, even if you live in Napa," Amy King said. "It certainly makes me feel better to know I have records on the people I love."

Next to the DNA booth, Angela Henry, vice president of the National Center for Child Safety and Awareness, was wheeling a video camera, quizzing her pint-size subjects about their favorite food, friends and hiding places.

Alicia Glover, 3, certainly wasn't camera shy. Standing in front of the makeshift studio, Alicia grinned ear to ear, while making several well-timed curtsies as Henry focused the hand-held video camera on the precious child.

Alicia's favorite food is ice cream and if Alicia had to hide, it would be under the covers of her bed.

There is a method behind the questions Henry asks the children.

"Usually kids say their most favorite food is cheese pizza. There have been times we have find a missing or abducted child by checking out the number of pizzas ordered in a certain time from a pizza restaurant. We also tell parents if their children talk a lot about a person who they don't think of as one of their children's best friends that should trigger a warning flag," Henry said.

While the children were having the inside of their mouths swabbed, rolling their fingers in black ink and doing a short performance in front of the video camera, a line of adults, children and even a dog or two were making a statement in downtown Napa that sexual assault will not be tolerated.