



## MACPS CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY 2020 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE TOMI ST MARS

23 YEARS IN CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Tomi has truly made a measurable impact over the past 23 years as a passionate advocate for child passenger safety. Her volunteer activities are as varied as her skills, and they include: working with new technicians to help them understand and grasp the concepts of CPS; assisting new Instructors understand the administrative nuances of teaching, encouraging on-going participation at events; public speaking about the whys of safe travel, taking risks on behalf of children and addressing myths head on; and simply caring about children riding in the safest way possible.



Notables:

- Attended ENA a pilot course in 9/1997 (Houston) and mentored as part of the early instructors in 1998.
- Taught the first CPST course to Native Americans in 1999.
- Traveled as a volunteer in the early years helping other communities/states build child passenger safety capacity. This included traveling to Marquette, MI days after 9-11-2001.
- Assisted in the development of the Safe Native American Passenger (SNAP) course that was released in 2003.
  - This course was the first course that ensured the content was readable and led to the national curriculum adopting

readability as a concept. SNAP has been taught in several tribal communities across the country and has reached thousands of safety advocates. Several SNAP participants have gone on to become certified CPS Technicians and are an important resource for families and children in their communities.

- Controversial, yet important, in 2013 established the "A Safe Ride Home" program with the state of Sonora MX and Arizona.
  - This partnership between Arizona and the State of Sonora, Mexico, focused on protecting children in vehicles. People in Arizona are able to donate their gently used car seats, which are inspected to ensure they will provide the protection needed, which are then donated to families in need in Mexico. Families receive the seats and education from CPSTs.
- Technicians were trained in Mexico using the standardized curriculum, an event is held annually.
- Most notable are the children in many communities that have benefited from the knowledge shared with families from the mentored technicians and instructors.

