



NEWS RELEASE

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MAHEC Staffers Named National Child Passenger Safety Team of the Year

Team works to help families and communities keep kids safe from injuries

Asheville, NC, April 8, 2024 — The coordinators of Safe Kids WNC, led by MAHEC, were recently awarded the National Child Passenger Safety Team of the Year. MAHEC team members Vickie Killough and Beverly Hopps were honored at the annual Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety.



“The individuals and team members we salute today are all about the mission of preventing unnecessary injuries to

children,” [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#) Chair Jim Savage said. “They have made it priority to provide car seat education and training to parents and caregivers. They have given their time and talents to support others working to keep kids safe. Because they have put safety first today, we can look forward to a better tomorrow.”

Last year, Safe Kids WNC under Killough and Hopps’ management was recognized as the Safe Kids North Carolina Coalition of the Year. They were honored for their work demonstrating longstanding consistency and commitment to leadership in childhood injury prevention.

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About MAHEC

Established five decades ago, MAHEC—Mountain Area Health Education Center—is a leader in healthcare, education, and innovation. Headquartered on a 14-acre campus in Asheville with family medicine, ob/gyn, internal medicine, psychiatry, and dentistry offices in [various locations](#) across its 16-county Western North Carolina service area, MAHEC is one of the largest nonprofit employers in the mountain region with more than 1,000 employees.

Among MAHEC’s focus areas is recruiting, training, and retaining the workforce needed to create a healthy North Carolina, especially primary care in rural communities and those with less access to resources. MAHEC is also home to [UNC Health Sciences at MAHEC](#), an academic health center in partnership with UNC-Chapel Hill that includes programs from the UNC School of Medicine, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, and UNC Adams School of Dentistry.

A private, [501\(c\)3 nonprofit organization](#), MAHEC is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024. For more information, visit [mahec.net](#) and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#).