

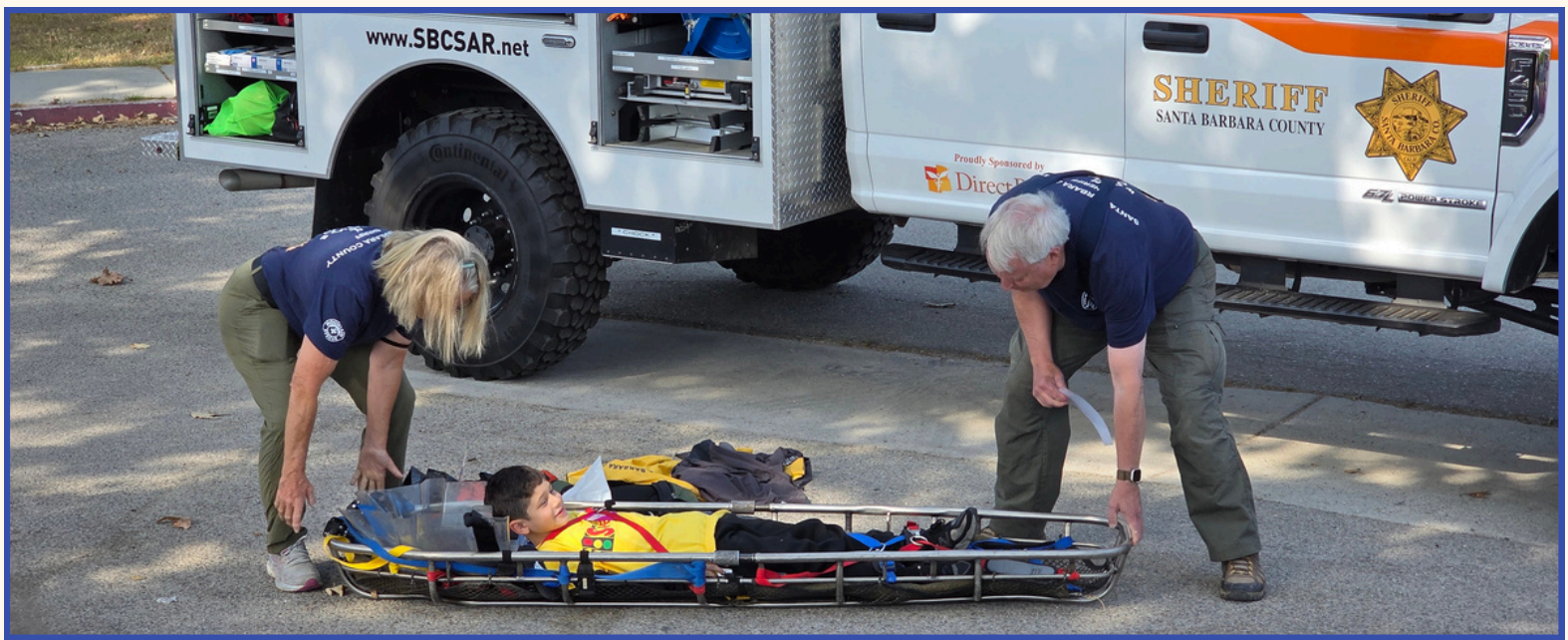
2025 IMPACT REPORT

SAFETY TOWN

OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



***CELEBRATING OUR
50TH ANNIVERSARY
1975 - 2025***



OUR MISSION

Safety Town of Santa Barbara County provides a quality, comprehensive, safety education program for pre- and post-kindergarten children, regardless of a family's ability to pay for services, to teach them vital skills to last a lifetime.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Catherine Boyer, President
Lizette Garcia, Vice-President
Kathy Raschka, Secretary
Gail Johnson, Treasurer
Alan Acosta
Diane Beane
Jayne Brechwald
Stuart Feinstein
Ginny Johns
Arlene Ramirez
Sheri Scott
Alice Sykes
Mark Weinsoff

Honorary Board Member
Deanna Robbins

OUR VISION

Our vision is to empower young children to make safe choices at home, in school, and in their communities.

STAFF

Cyndi Aghayan, Curriculum Director
Holly Noble, Curriculum Director
Thea Sandrich, Curriculum Director
Sheri Scott, Curriculum Director
Joni Galvan, CIT Director
Evi Limon-Ngai, CIT Director/Assistant Director
Vanessa Salas, CIT Director/Assistant Director
Amy Oliver, Assistant Director
Marynicole Ramirez, Program Assistant
Janet Salas, Program Assistant

Anne Gould, Program Director
Derek Calzada, Technology Director



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are proud to share this year's Impact Report during a milestone year—Safety Town's 50th anniversary! Safety Town continues to thrive because of the commitment of our volunteers, instructors, families, and supporters who believe in the importance of giving children the tools they need to stay safe at home, at school, and in their communities.

This past summer, nearly 300 five- and six-year-old children participated in our week-long sessions, learning essential safety skills through interactive lessons, role-playing, and hands-on activities. Together, we have helped prepare the next generation to make safe choices with confidence.

As we reflect on this year's accomplishments, we are reminded that Safety Town is a community effort. Your involvement ensures that children continue to benefit from this vital training. Thank you.

With appreciation,

Catherine Boyer

Catherine Boyer, President
Safety Town of Santa Barbara County

SUMMER 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

290

Total Children

249

Full-Fee Pay

41

Scholarships
(14.6% of total attendance)

Thank you to the Goleta Union School District and the Montecito Union School District for offering their campus facilities for our summer sessions

6 State Preschool
6 St. Vincent's Children's Center
10 LEAP Children's Center
19 Storyteller Children's Center

Montecito Union School, Montecito, CA, June 16-20, June 23-27
Mountain View Elementary School, Goleta, CA, June 16-20, June 23-27
Isla Vista Elementary School, Goleta, CA, July 7 - 11, July 14-18

A Program That's Safe, Accessible, Relevant, and Affordable for All

Volunteer board committees facilitate these goals, including the:

- Fundraising and Grant Writing Committee: secures support for scholarships, transportation, operations, and equipment improvements
- Education Committee: develops age-appropriate curricular materials on relevant topics
- Operations Committee: coordinates safe locations accessible throughout south Santa Barbara County, recruits teen CIT volunteers, and manages registration.
- Human Resources Committee: staffs the sites with qualified, caring educators



LESSONS FROM COMMUNITY SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Throughout each session, community partners introduced our five-year-olds to essential safety skills through hands-on demonstrations and interactive lessons.

Santa Barbara Search & Rescue: Outdoor safety skills, including staying in one place if lost, making yourself visible and loud, carrying essential supplies, and always staying with a trusted adult.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office: "Don't touch—tell a grown-up" firearm safety, reinforcing 911 awareness, the importance of buckling up, and learning about the work of law enforcement.

UC Santa Barbara Aquatics: Swimming and beach safety, the importance of learning to swim, and why children should never swim alone.

U.S. Forest Service with Smokey Bear: Campfire and match safety, and learning what it means to prevent forest fires.

Personal Safety with Ann Bryant: Understanding "good touch/bad touch," identifying trusted grown-ups, and practicing the "No, Go, Tell" safety response.

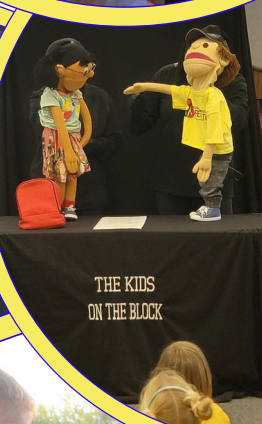
Santa Barbara County Fire Department: Fire safety practices such as Stop, Drop, and Roll; crawling low under smoke; smoke alarm awareness; and creating a family fire safety plan.

Community Friends Auxiliary: Puppeteers teach bicycle and vehicle safety, including helmets, seatbelts, and other essential safety gear.

Emergency Services (AMR Santa Barbara): When and how to call 911, the role of a paramedic, and a guided tour of an ambulance.

South Coast Karate: Personal boundaries, recognizing strangers, and identifying "safe strangers" who can help in emergencies.

Safety Town Directors and CITs: Pedestrian safety and how to cross the street; playground safety and turn-taking; poison safety ("Only take food, drinks, or medicine from a trusted grown-up"); and earthquake preparedness with "Drop, Cover, Hold On."



228

CITs volunteered

COUNSELORS-IN-TRAINING (CITs)

Each CIT volunteer averaged 25 hours

5700

Total Hours Volunteered

One of the things that makes Safety Town so special is our amazing Counselor-In-Training (CIT) program. Each pair of children is matched with their very own CIT, which means each child gets plenty of personal attention and support every step of the way.

This close connection helps the children learn new skills, practice what they've learned, and feel confident while they're having fun. CITs bring lots of energy and encouragement, making each day more engaging and social. Safety Towners love having "their" counselor to guide them, and CITs gain great leadership experience in the process. It's a wonderful match that makes Safety Town an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.



CITs RECRUITED FROM

- Bishop Diego Garcia High School
- The Crane School
- Dos Pueblos High School
- Goleta Valley Jr. High School
- ICL Academy
- Laguna Blanca School
- La Colina Jr. High
- Ojai Valley School
- The Rivera Ridge School
- San Marcos High School
- Santa Barbara High School
- St. Raphael School



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Behind the scenes, board member Alice Sykes played a central role in rallying fellow volunteers who assisted with Monday morning registration, prepared morning snacks, washed and cared for our CIT vests, and assisted with our 50th anniversary celebration.



Thank you to the Northside Optimist Club and Santa Barbara Rotary Sunrise volunteers

Continuing their annual tradition, Mark Weinsoff and John Profant, members of the Northside Optimist Club of Santa Barbara, serviced and repaired Safety Town's miniature buildings, scooters and pedal cars.

Dennis Johns, Santa Barbara Rotary, thank you for charging and maintaining our equipments' batteries, ensuring that our miniature Safety Town was fully functioning and ready to operate.

112 Total Volunteer Hours

Alan Acosta
Diane Beane
Catherine Boyer
Jayne Brechwald
Barbara Breza
Nancy Butterfield
Ginny Capra
Beverly de la Cruz
Leslie Edgerton
Mona Escobar-Ornelas
Lizette Garcia
Mary Jacob
Ginny Johns
Gail Johnson
Sue Kadner
Donnalyne Karpales
Carole Kennedy
Darilyn Kisch
Christine LeBon
Rosa Lomeli
Barbara Petronis
Michelle Profant
Sandy O'Meara
Michele Padron
Arlene Ramirez
Jacqueline Ramirez
Kathy Raschka
Deanna Robbins
Helen Roberts
Izzy Romero
Kathleen Rogers
Alice Sykes
Libby Williams

NCL PATRONESSES AND TICKTOCKERS

National Charity League, Inc., Santa Barbara Chapter unites mothers and daughters in meaningful service, leadership development, and cultural engagement. Serving the communities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Montecito, Summerland, and Carpinteria, members strengthen family bonds while making a measurable impact through hands-on volunteerism.

Over the past 17 years, NCL has logged more than 16,000 volunteer hours with Safety Town!

In 2025, this commitment continued through the chapter's support of Safety Town. NCL Patronesses (mothers) prepared snack trays for every summer session, ensuring participants felt welcomed and cared for each day.

Our daughters—the NCL Ticktockers—served as counselors-in-training (CITs), contributing 903 volunteer hours to guide, encourage, and mentor young Safety Towners. For many Patronesses, it's a full-circle experience to see their daughters who once attended Safety Town at age five return as confident teenage CITs.

NCL Patronesses:
30 Total
Volunteer
Hours

Beth Allin
Diane Beane
Houghton Hyatt
Riley Hyatt
Jenna Motola
Elizabeth Peus
Kate Riesen
Lisa Rottman
Tara Vowels
Tina Wood

Diane Beane, Patroness
National Charity League



HANNA BEANE ATTENDED SAFETY TOWN AT AGE 5 AND AS A TICKTOCKER, BECAME A CIT VOLUNTEER AT AGE 17!

OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Thank you to a legendary Safety Town pioneer.

Deanna Robbins, a retired educator, longtime board member, and now an honorary member of the Safety Town board, shared her reflections during Safety Town's 50th anniversary celebration on July 11, 2025, at Isla Vista Elementary School. Excerpts from Deanna's remarks follow.



CATHERINE BOYER (L.), SUPERVISOR LAURA CAPPS AND DEANNA ROBBINS (R)
CELEBRATING SAFETY TOWN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Safety Town has come a long way since my involvement over the past 25 years. The program began as a simple two-hour program but started to grow once early leaders like Myrna Gaskin and the local chapter of Soroptimist International of Santa Barbara saw its potential. Their enthusiasm, along with support from former president/CEO Chuck Schlosser of the Santa Barbara Foundation and Ida Rickborn, then the Goleta Union School District superintendent, helped our program find a school site, new partners, and the resources to expand.

As the program took shape, Myrna and I, teachers Joni Galvan and Jo Bittner, and our volunteer team strengthened the curriculum to match what young children were learning in school. We added take-home activities and placed a strong focus on reaching underserved families—through partnerships with the Isla Vista Youth Projects (now LEAP), Storyteller Preschool and St. Vincent's Preschool.

Thanks to many dedicated volunteers, staff members Anne Gould and Derek Calzada, board leadership, and ongoing community support, Safety Town has continued to grow and adapt to current needs while keeping its joyful, hands-on spirit. Today, Safety Town remains a place where young children learn essential safety skills, build confidence, and make lasting memories.

- Deanna Robbins

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION



What Safety Town has done for 50 years is a gift of giving parents more reassurance, to know that at least their children, their most precious gifts in this entire world, are equipped with skills, and with knowledge, and with practice. And that is such a benefit that you have given to thousands and thousands of parents.



Remarks by 2nd District Supervisor Laura Capps during Safety Town's 50th anniversary celebration at the Isla Vista Elementary School on July 11, 2025.

Presented by Ian Baucke, representing California's 21st Senate District and State Senator Monique Limón



with Jo Bittner and Joni Galvin

In recognition of their extraordinary commitment to Safety Town, board member Sheri Scott interviewed educators Jo Bittner and Joni Galvin. As a team, they taught Safety Town side by side for 25 years. Jo retired in 2020, while Joni continues her work each summer as a CIT director.

Q: How did you get started with Safety Town?

A: Deanna Robbins, whom we knew through the Goleta Union School District, introduced us to Safety Town. She handed us ONE giant two-inch binder that supposedly contained everything we needed to run Safety Town for five days.

Somehow, we weren't overwhelmed, but we were definitely nervous. We'd both been teaching for years. "No sweat—we can do this," we told one another. And we did!

Q: What were the early summers like?

A: Busy and hands-on. We registered every child and every teen in person at the Goleta Union School District boardroom—long lines, tons of paperwork, envelopes, checks, and lists. These were the days of no computers! It was just the two of us running 5–6 weeks of Safety Town each summer.

We started at La Colina Jr. High with a huge area for our "safety town" with painted roads on the blacktop. There were child-size buildings—even a McDonald's, a bank, and a real estate office.

After two summers at La Colina, Deanna was given permission to move the site to the Foothill School. The town was smaller—the roads outlined with tape on the blacktop—but everything else was perfect for us to operate the program.

Q: Why is Safety Town important?

A: The program teaches foundational safety skills in a memorable, age-appropriate way. At each Friday's graduation from the program, when we ask, "How many parents here attended Safety Town?"—many parents' and CITS' hands go up. Safety Town has become a true local tradition.

Q: What has it meant to you?

A: It's been an honor to help shape a program with such impact. The most rewarding part was hearing the children repeat the lessons they learned at the end of each day. You could see real growth.

Q: How did the program grow?

A: With help from Deanna, Anne Gould, and Tracy Spechyock, who supported us for 14 years. As more staff joined and computers replaced paper lists, each summer became more organized and efficient.

Q: What moments stand out?

A: Every visitor—police officers, firefighters, Smokey Bear and many others—was magical for the children. And, watching the children ride the city bus and singing the Safety Town song at the top of their lungs...honestly, nothing beats that experience!

Q: How do you feel about your years with Safety Town today?

A: (Joni): The importance of Safety Town is "to infinity and beyond." I'm so proud to still be part of it!

A: (Jo): I'm grateful for every summer I spent teaching there. It wasn't just a job—it was a joy.



JONI GALVIN WITH HER ARM AROUND JO BITTNER, JULY 2025

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Nicole Allen
Jayne Brechwald
Catherine Boyer
DAFgiving360
Virginia and Dennis Johns

Gail Johnson
Jared Katz/The Trevor Katz Fund
Nancy and Kenneth Knight
Stephens Seps Property Trust
Coleen Sitolini

Hope Share Care Foundation
The Towbes Foundation
California Retired Teachers Association

Both the Towbes Foundation and the Montecito Bank & Trust provided funds so that "Jump on the School Bus" could transport children from the Storyteller Children's Center to the July session held at the Isla Vista Elementary School site.



DAILY TRANSPORTATION FOR OUR STORYTELLER STUDENTS WAS SUPPLIED BY JUMP ON THE SCHOOL BUS!

GRATITUDE FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

MarBorg Industries

Mary Kahn, Superintendent
Goleta Union School District

Anthony Ranii, Superintendent
Montecito Union School District

Rusty Ito, Assistant Principal
Montecito Union School District

APPRECIATION FOR OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS

whose support allowed us to give each child a bright yellow bag to use for safety information and the projects they completed each day.

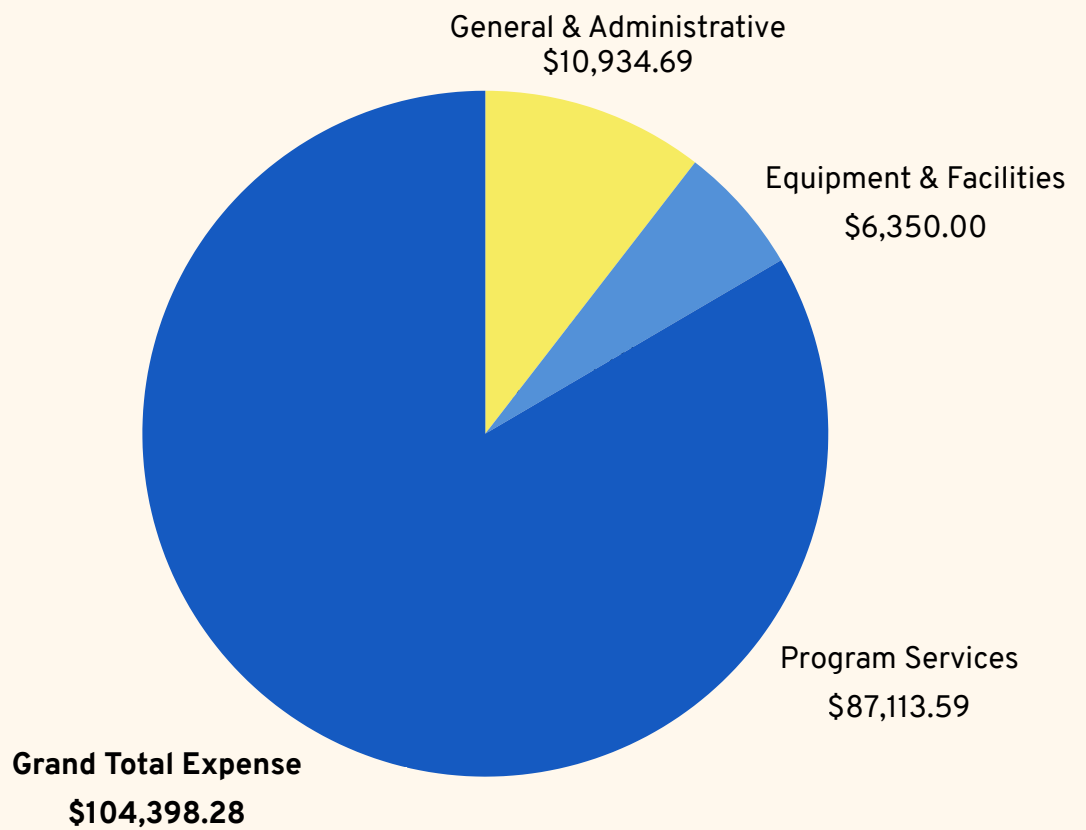
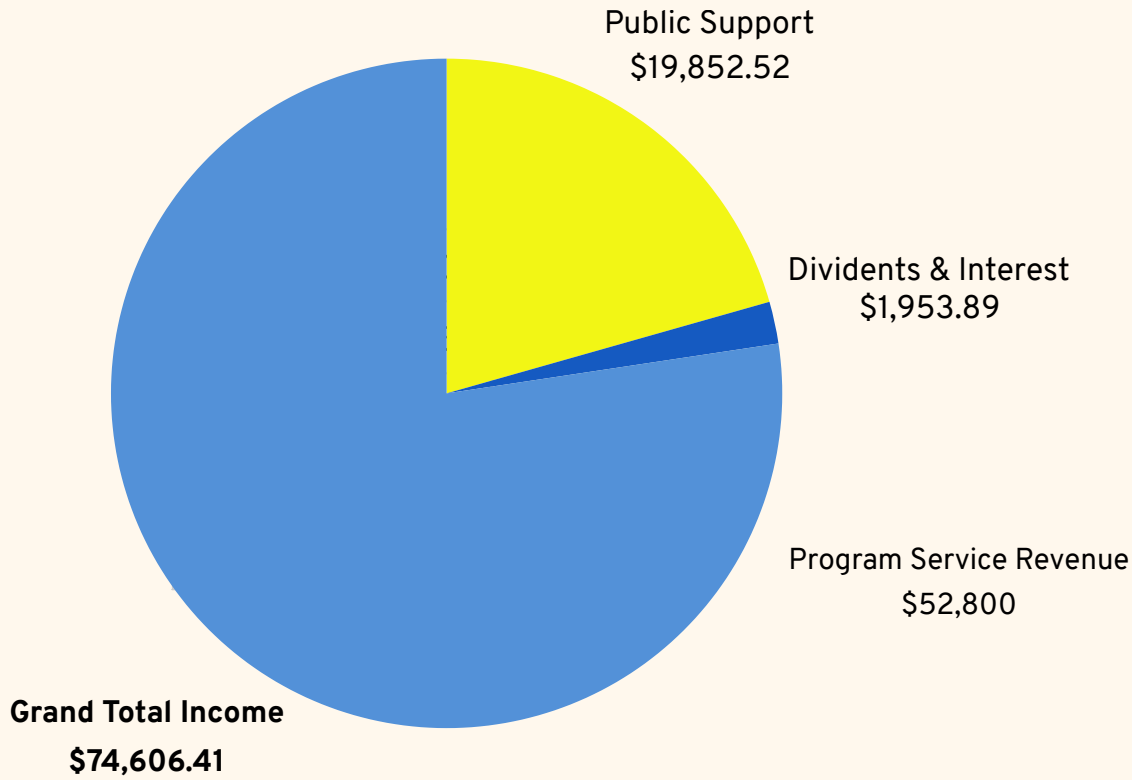
Arlington Financial Advisors - Dianne Duva
Art Essentials
Paul Cashman State Farm Insurance
Tammy Dobrotin State Farm Insurance
Holehouse Construction Company
Lens Floor Covering
Monarch Wealth Strategies - Nicole Allen
Montecito Bank & Trust
Northside Optimist Club Santa Barbara
Rudi Shulte Foundation
Simply Sholeh
Spach & Associates



Our appreciation to Attorney Erik Johnson, Wilson Turner Kosmo, LLC, for providing pro bono legal counsel to our nonprofit organization.

INCOME AND EXPENSES

September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025



A MEANINGFUL COMMITMENT

Safety Town has been one of the most meaningful commitments of my life. I have loved the children we serve and feel deeply inspired by their eagerness to learn how to stay safe in their world. Supporting Safety Town's mission has brought me immense joy, purpose, and pride, and I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this important work.

After more than 12 years of serving as a volunteer board of director, I will continue my commitment as a volunteer, working directly with the children and staff at the summer Safety Town programs.

- Jayne Brechwald
Board Member, 2012-2025





SAFE KIDS SAFE FUTURE

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