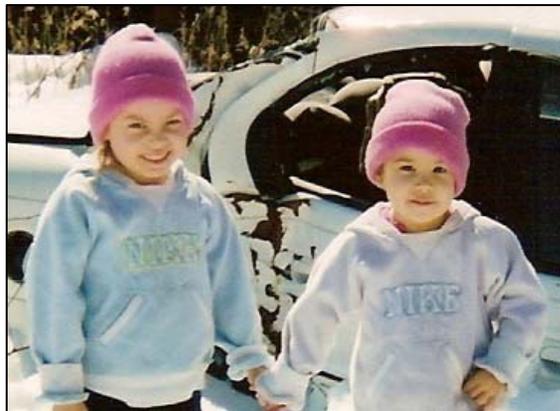




Menominee Ride Safe Program

The Ride Safe Child Passenger Safety Program is a Head Start-based child passenger safety program that provides curriculum, child safety seats, and training to Head Start staff, parents, and community partners.

Through the Ride Safe Program, the Menominee Nation in Wisconsin provides child safety seats to Head Start children. Pamela Nelson, Menominee Tribal Health Center, coordinates this Program. She learned of the following story from Tessa Peters, mother of two toddlers involved in a crash.



On Feb. 17 at approximately 8:12 am my boyfriend Bill and our two daughters Alexi 2 yrs and Lily 1 yr. and I were on our way down Hwy 47/55 when a large deer jumped out. I swerved hitting the deer hard enough to take out the front end of the car. The force of the deer threw our vehicle into the ditch hitting a pole, it impacted on the rear passenger side of our car.

In a daze I eventually got out of the car, hurrying and trying to get our daughters out of the vehicle we noticed the car seats collided due to the force of the impact, even though they were properly installed. We were all transported to the hospital via ambulance. Alexi's seat was totaled, we couldn't even unbuckle it, Lily was transported in the ambulance in her car seat. Bill and I were transported in separate ambulances. Bill received whiplash, Lily had head trauma due to the impact of the two seats colliding, Alexi was fine and I received had a large laceration to my head and received staples. While I was in the ER people were calling asking if anyone died in the crash because the vehicle was so smashed.

I now live by car seats and seat belts. We never ride without them because there is always that what if thought in my head. The training and education I received from Pam Giese on proper installation of car seats made all the difference in the world without that education I honestly believe my daughters would not be here today. She really stresses the importance of proper installation in the vehicle. She provided me with the original car seats and she replaced them after the crash.

Thank you -- Tessa Peters