



Happy Fall Y'all!

Hello! Please excuse the late newsletter this month. We added 15 new Aim for Safety ambassadors on September 24th, and wanted to be sure to include them on this mail-out. Read on our new action team chair, our new video highlighting safe storage and suicide prevention, upcoming volunteer opportunities, and so much more!

Measuring success in...centimeters?

As we provide gun safes out into the community, we ask families to sign a liability form. Pictured here, are two stacks of liability forms. On the left, you see signed liability forms from 2021, 2022, and 2023. On the right, you see forms that have been signed just this year. Talk about growth!

As you can see here, sometimes success can be measured in sheets of paper. What a successful year we've had so far and we thank all of you, our partners, for helping us. You are our champions in the community!



New Action Team Chair



Pictured left to right:

Hilton Jackson, Donya Jackson, Eric Gonzalez, Dr. Dan Guzman, Cody Adams

Welcome Hilton Jackson!

First, we'd like to extend a huge THANK YOU to our outgoing action team chair, Richard Buchfink. We know that Richard will continue to be an advocate for safe gun storage and continue to educate families in his community.

We now welcome Hilton Jackson as our new action team chair. He was voted into this position during our September collaborative meeting. Hilton is a member of the National African American Gun Association (NAAGA) and has been a strong partner with Aim for Safety. He has helped organize many events over the last year and is passionate about proper education on gun training, safe gun storage, and so much more. We are happy to have him join the team!

Volunteer Opportunities

October 1st – Family Resource Fair, Fort Worth Medical Center

October 1st – National Night Out, LVT Rise, Fort Worth

October 9th – FWISD parent presentation, Fort Worth

October 10th – Aim for Safety action team meeting, Virtual

October 24th – Aim for Safety Virtual Class, *open to the public*

October 29th – Fall Resource Fair, Prosper ISD

SAVE THE DATE ↓

December 12th – Volunteer Appreciation Event, Fort Worth Zoo (more details to come)



Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Over the past decade, the firearm suicide rate among children and teens has increased by **44 percent**¹. Nearly **80 percent** of child gun suicides involve a gun that belongs to a family member².

We now have a short video that highlights the importance of safe gun storage and its role in reducing the risk of gun suicides. Please feel free to share this on your personal or organization websites!



¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A percent change was developed using 2013 vs. 2022 crude rates for ages 0 to 19.

² Catherine Barber et al., "Who Owned the Gun in Firearm Suicides of Men, Women, and Youth in Five US States?" *Preventive Medicine* 164 (2022): 107066, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2022.107066>.

YouTube Link: [A Simple Reminder | Aim for Safety | Cook Children's](#)

Questions? Comments? Interested in volunteering for an event? Contact us at:

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Partner Spotlight



Pictured left to right:
Arlington Mayor Jim Ross, Dr. Dan Guzman, Cheryl McCarver-VP
Arlington-Mansfield YMCA, Officer Cody Adams

Officer Cody Adams

Meet Officer Adams with the Arlington Police Department. Since 2007, he has served in various units of the police department including the patrol unit, the North H.E.A.T. team, traffic unit, and has now taken on a role in the Crime Prevention Unit.

Officer Adams expertly delivers education in his community on important safety topics, including gun safety. He has provided several gun safes to families and recognizes that every family wants to ensure the utmost protection for their children.

In addition to serving as an ambassador with Aim for Safety, Officer Adams was recently voted in as Chair for our Child Passenger Safety Program. Congratulations and *thank you* for all of your hard work!

New Ambassadors

On September 24th, we welcomed **fifteen** new ambassadors to the Aim for Safety program! We look forward to working with you all and appreciate your willingness to promote and foster a gun safe community!

Brejetta Emery, Women in Leadership (New Mexico)
Stacy Burleson, Women in Leadership (New Mexico)
Miss Morris, Women in Leadership (New Mexico)
Mona McIver, Women in Leadership (New Mexico)
Scott Foster, InspirEmpower (New Mexico)
Trenton Walton, InspirEmpower (New Mexico)
William Lockridge, Texas DPS

Nolita Isbelle, MHMR Tarrant County
Tiffanie Starks, MHMR Tarrant County
Kendra Shepherd, MHMR Tarrant County
Michelle Smith, MHMR Tarrant County
Catie Selvaggi, JPS Health
Joni Belz, Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital
Taryn Wilson, Cook Children's
Carter Collins, Alliance for Children

Additional Resources



[Gun Safety
\(cookchildrenscommunity.org\)](https://cookchildrenscommunity.org)



[Lock Arms for Life | Owning a gun is more than a right — it's a responsibility that demands safety awareness](#)



[How to Store a Gun Safely | Safe Gun Storage in Texas
\(safegunstorage.texas.com\)](#)