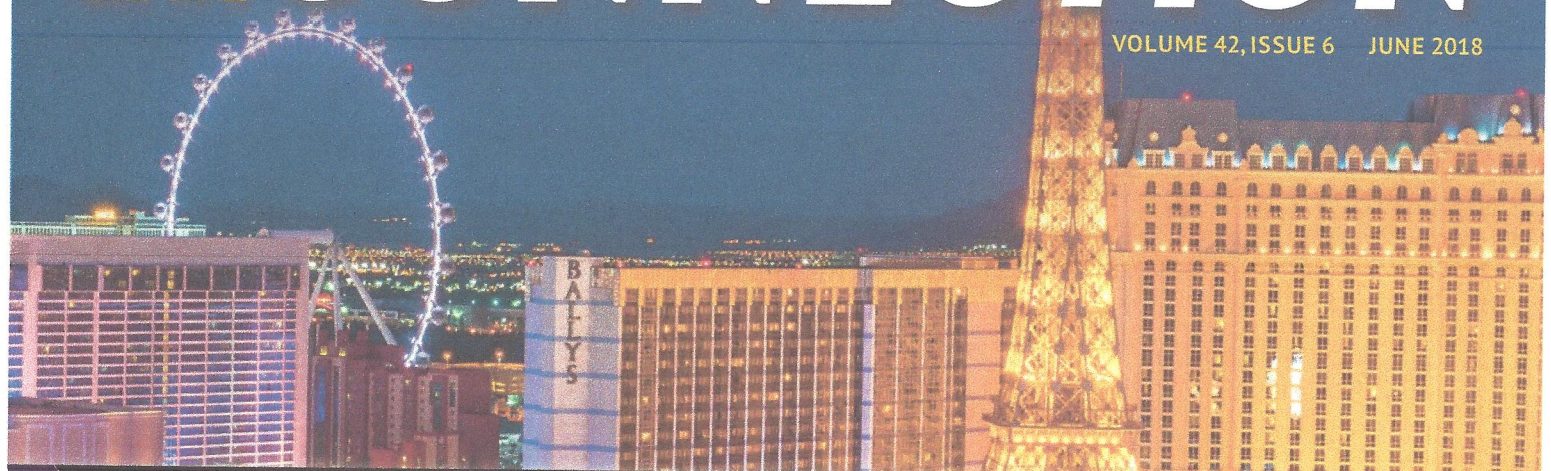


ENACONNECTION

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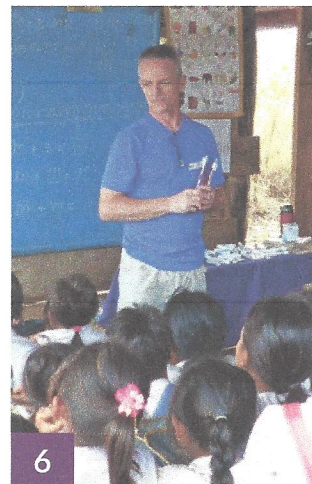
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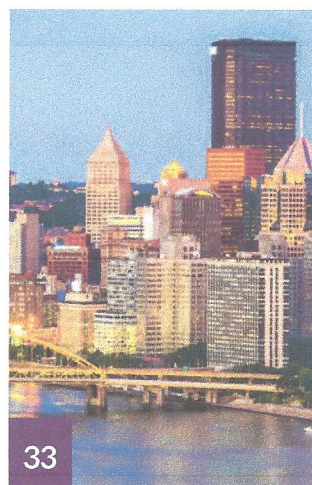
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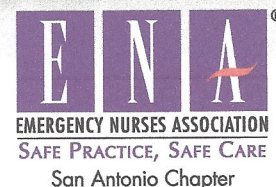
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CORRECTION:

In the January issue of ENA Connection, an incorrect hospital affiliation for Julie Heckman was included in a Lantern Award story. She is the director of ambulatory services for children and women at Medical University of South Carolina.



Practical and Passionate: Member's Baby-sitting Course Hits the Road

By Angela Mapes Turner
ENA Connection Contributor

When emergency nurse Barbara Baldwin, RN, developed a baby-sitting training program, Safety Whys, she looked to adults with the expertise – and the passion – to inspire and mentor children.

In collaboration with the ENA San Antonio Chapter, Safety Whys offers boys and girls ages 11 to 17 a seven-hour course, packed with hands-on training led by professionals including nurses, firefighters and law enforcement officers.

Many of the instructors often say they are surprised at how engaged their young students are, but it's the instructors' enthusiasm that sparks interest from their students, Baldwin boasted.

"That passion is there," she said. "That's what I've seen come through to the kids."

Safety Whys' history intertwines closely with ENA, dating back to the late 1980s, when Baldwin heard someone at a Texas ENA State Council meeting mention a baby-sitting course at a hospital. She formed her class in 1989, giving it the play-on-words name of Safety Whys.

The course includes CPR and Heimlich demonstrations and training in crime prevention, fire, electrical and natural gas safety, first aid and infection control. Additionally, students are given advice on how to safely and professionally establish their baby-sitting business.



Barbara Baldwin, RN

Safety Whys graduates put their training to work – in some cases, right away.

Baldwin recounted a story of a 12-year-old baby sitter who took the class just one day before performing the Heimlich maneuver on a choking 3-year-old.

"These students are phenomenal," Baldwin remarked.

Safety Whys classes include a segment dedicated to leadership. Baldwin hopes for kids to make connections that will be valuable for their future and gain experience as leaders.

That's certainly been the case for graduate A.G., a 15-year-old high school freshman from the San Antonio area.

A.G. had been baby-sitting her younger sister since a young age, but she was reluctant to embrace the Safety Whys course, in which A.G.'s mother had enrolled her.

She was shy, she said, and didn't like talking in a group of strangers.

But she found herself engrossed in the training, so much that she gained the confidence to be chosen as an assistant at the next class. She has also talked with other students about Safety Whys over the phone.

"It's a very fulfilling journey," A.G. said. "It's very exciting and fun, and you get to know a lot of people."

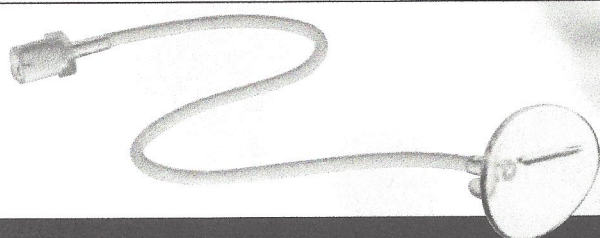
And, of course, she feels her baby-sitting skills have improved immensely, especially in how she offers proactive

ENA's San Antonio chapter and the Rotary Club of San Antonio at the Dominion have supported Safety Whys for many years.

alternatives to bored children and healthy boundaries to challenging ones.

"I have resources I can use, because I was taught that at the class," she said.

Baldwin continues to lead by example, by taking on new challenges. In the early 2000s, she saw an opportunity to give recognition to the dedicated people of all ages who provide baby-sitting services. Working with former Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-Texas, National Babysitters Day was



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(top) The Baldwins kneel at the back of their bus, next to the picture of Kelleher

(below) Baldwin (right) stands with Kelleher at ENA Scientific Assembly in 1994

introduced. The holiday is observed the Saturday before Mother's Day.

In 2014, Baldwin launched an ambitious outreach project. A bright yellow tour coach, emblazoned with information about Safety Whys, became a temporary summer home for Baldwin and her husband as they travel the 50 states to promote responsible baby-sitting.

While Baldwin wasn't able to bring along student ambassadors as she'd hoped, due to liability concerns, she and her husband have visited 28 states so far in the tour coach – navigating low-clearance overpasses and flat tires along the way.

"It's been a learning experience," she said with a laugh.

On June 20, Baldwin and her husband will embark on a 5,200-mile trip during which they'll visit Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa.

ENA's San Antonio chapter and the Rotary Club of San Antonio at the Dominion have supported Safety Whys for many years.

Drawing on those experiences, Baldwin looks up ENA and Rotary chapters within a 25-mile radius of her travel destinations and visits as many as she can.

"I have seen the value of the mix of the two organizations, which is why I want to pursue that blend in the expansion of the program," she said.

The Baldwins stopped at the ENA national office in Des Plaines, Illinois, last summer as they toured seven states in the Midwest and the South.

The project will wrap up in 2020, when Baldwin takes Safety Whys' message as far away as Hawaii, where she's already building contacts in anticipation of her visit.

On the back of the bus is a picture of ENA co-founder Judith Kelleher, with the words, "In loving memory."

While traveling, she carries in spirit a treasured mentor. On the back of the bus is a picture of ENA co-founder Judith Kelleher, with the words, "In loving memory." The memorial is Baldwin's way of maintaining a promise she made to Kelleher's family to keep her memory alive.

Their friendship began in the early 1970s, when Baldwin, a senior in nurse training at the time, wrote to Kelleher about an article she had published.

They began corresponding, and Kelleher told her about an upcoming ENA event in Houston.

Baldwin went, stopping at a McDonald's crowded with nurses before the event. She didn't know anyone, but was invited to sit with a group. Later, she learned one of the women at her table was ENA co-founder Anita Dorr.

Baldwin kept active with ENA, and when Kelleher told her about an event in California, where she lived, Baldwin made the trip and met her mentor in person.

Their friendship continued through the years, with a mutual regard for each other's interests. Kelleher would send her articles about baby-sitter training when Baldwin decided to pursue developing Safety Whys.

"She took me under her wing. We just hit it off," Baldwin said. "We got into a friendship that I treasured."

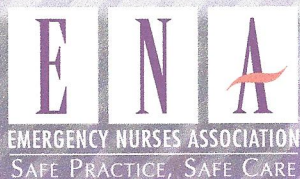
Just as she saw Kelleher's role grow in ENA over the decades, Baldwin found her own nursing niche: sharing Safety Whys' message of "Promoting Responsible Youth for Helping Kids" wherever she goes.

"This must be my mission," she said, "because I've been doing it since '89, and I'm still excited about it." ■

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