



The United Way serving Northwest Indiana

*Lake • Porter • LaPorte Counties*

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## Northwest Indiana Injury Attorney Donates Funds To Purchase Child Identification Kits

(Hammond, IN) - For the third year in a row, noted injury attorney Kenneth Allen and his wife Nina have donated a \$20,000 contribution to provide every kindergarten and first-grade student in Northwest Indiana public schools with United Way Kinderprint Child Identification Kits.

A special presentation was made Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at Northwest Family Services in Hammond attended by Mr. and Mrs. Allen, agency director Dave Armistead, and representatives of the United Ways in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties. Dozens of curious kids attending the center's daycare program looked on.



The Allens feel prevention is key to keeping kids safe and they feel this program is important. "Protecting our kids is paramount," said Ken Allen.

"The Kinderprint program not only helps law enforcement locate lost or abducted kids, it encourages parents to discuss safety with their children beforehand. Prevention is the goal," he added. "The more kids learn about avoiding danger, the better."

"We have a lot to be grateful for and we want to help protect children. When kids bring the kits home from school, I hope it sparks conversation between the parents and their children. Parents need to talk about this important subject with their kids," he remarked.

The pocket-size kit allows parents to record their child's name, address, physical description, birth date, dental records, fingerprints, DNA sample, a current photograph and emergency contact information. It also includes child safety tips and instructions. Once completed, parents and caregivers are encouraged to keep the kit up-to-date, safe, secure and ready at their fingertips.

"Every day in the U.S., 2,000 kids become lost or are abducted. God-forbid anything terrible happens, but if it does, these kits will give parents a quick way to provide law enforcement officers, the media and other agencies with vital information to use in their missing child's recovery.

All three United Way executives were thrilled by the Allen's generosity and gift. "This is an expensive item and we would not be able to provide it to the children without the help of the Allens," said Sharon Kish, president of United Way of Porter County.

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