

## Working to protect our children through highway safety

December 2022



One in four deaths in children are due to traumatic car crash injuries, and our roadways are only becoming deadlier. Nationally, at least three children die daily from crashes. Last year in Louisiana, 1 in 16 fatal vehicle collisions resulted in a child's death, with even more sustaining serious injuries.

These tragedies are preventable, but many parents do not know the importance of car seat usage, proper installation, or how to acquire a seat. Through our Car Seat Safety Outreach Program, we provide the instruction and resources necessary to ensure the safety of New Orleans' families in cars and car seats. In our free and open-to-all safety lessons, Program Director Collying Salinas teaches parents local vehicle occupant protection laws as well as practical, hands-on lessons on

how to install and adjust child safety harnesses.

Collying, who has been working in highway safety protection for over a decade, is a nationally Certified Passenger Safety Technician and Car Fit Technician, and was trained as a health promoter in 2006. She has been honored three times as a Louisiana Hero by the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force, among other awards.

Importantly, Collying is a well-known and trusted leader in our local Hispanic community and has extensive knowledge about the specific challenges its members face. She is known as a leader and collaborator, bringing together Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, LSU Health, local churches, and community groups to build the safety net for



our children. Before joining our team, Collying supported the Hispanic population by working with individuals in health and social services including community clinics, housing, and ESL classes, and by providing bilingual assistance. The Car Seat Safety Outreach Program has developed rapidly due to Collying's outreach, large network, and personal connection to the community where she lives and works.

"I love helping people," Collying said. "My favorite part is that I have the opportunity to provide important information about car seat safety and seatbelt use that can save the life of a child and an adult."

For more information about the YMCA of Greater New Orleans and to stay up-to-date with community programs and events, join our mailing list or follow us on social media:



Visit [www.ymcaneuorleans.org/oury/y-impact-stories/](http://www.ymcaneuorleans.org/oury/y-impact-stories/) for more wonderful Y stories!

YMCA OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS  
320 Metairie Hammond Hwy, Ste. 321  
Metairie, LA 70005  
PH# (504) 568-9622 FAX# (504) 533-0080

