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Published: February 08, 2008 11:18 pm

Optimists sponsor child ID program

The Goshen Noon Optimist Club have raised funds to bring a program designed to protect children to the area.

The club members "passed the hat" and raised \$500 at a meeting, then set out to garner support for the SafeAssured program in the community.

The SafeAssured kit is designed to help in the search for missing children.

When children are entered into the program, a compact disc of them, including photos, fingerprints and a video, can be provided to law enforcement.

The kit from the SafeAssured company includes:

- All 10 electronically imaged fingerprints
- Digital photograph
- Streaming video showing mannerisms and gait with linked audio file providing the child's voice inflection and accent.
- Private information (general physical description, street address, date of birth, life-threatening medical conditions, identifying scars or marks, and tattoos)
- Ability to create missing person poster from the mini-CD

Families also receive a full-color photo data card and a Parents' Guidebook with prevention tips, written in conjunction with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

According to Optimist president Kirk Miller, the club plans to have at least quarterly events at the Goshen Boys & Girls Club to help protect children in the community.

"We are being very vocal about this project," Miller wrote in a press release. "Not only to advertise that our club is here to help our community, but to let people know that the kids in our community are protected. We want people to think twice before trying to take a child. We want them to know that we are ready to get a disk to the police to disburse to all other law enforcement within minutes."

The Goshen service club will make the program available to other clubs in its "zone" for a nominal fee that will be put back into the program for repairs, upgrades more diskettes or the purchase of another system, according to Miller.

The service will be offered free to families, but donations will be accepted.

For more information on the program, visit the Web site www.safeassured-id.com.

More information

For more information on the program, call Goshen Noon Optimist president Kirk Miller at 533-9981.



Photos



Kirk Miller, president of the Goshen Optimist Club, looks over 7-year-old Schyler Donahoe's physical biographical information entered into his SafeAssured ID — information that will be given to investigators if Donahoe ever disappears. The Optimists sponsored the identification program, which took place at Maust Architectural Services in Goshen recently. **David Johnson/Goshen News Staff Photographer** (Click for larger image)

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