

## **Device helps track missing children**

### **Enterprising tribal employee gets grant for state-of-the-art equipment**

MENOMINEE INDIAN RESERVATION WI  
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The initiative of a tribal employee has led to that tribe receiving a device that will make children in the area safer, officials report.

Penny Escalante, a worker in the Wisconsin-based Menominee Indian Tribe's childcare services office, applied for a grant, leading to children in the area receiving the SafeAssured ID kit.

The identification features an encrypted mini compact disc containing: up to ten digital fingerprints, digital photograph, streaming video showing mannerisms and gait, voice track providing the youth's voice inflection and accent, general physical description, vital personal information-including street address, date of birth, life-threatening medical conditions, identifying scars or marks, and tattoos- and a family code word.

Escalante said the system is proving to be popular with parents and law enforcement alike.

"We've received many positive comments from parents who have brought their children to the events" she said. "Our tribal police chief has been so excited...that he's spreading the word and telling other tribal chiefs how great it really is.

Workers used to dealing with missing children say that when a vanishes, minutes matter.

"Time is the enemy when it comes to recovering a missing child. A critical element to the first few hours of an investigation is for law enforcement to have a good quality, current photograph of the missing child," said Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, a non-profit agency that works with the federal U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. "[Our organization] urges parents and guardians to maintain easily accessible, good-quality photographs of their children."

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