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## **Safe Kids PA State Office Coordinator Receives National Recognition Jessica Ritter Named a Rising Leader in Public Health with Award and Honor**

**Mechanicsburg, Pa.** – Jessica Ritter, State Office Coordinator of Safe Kids Pennsylvania (SKPA), received the Martha Collar Partnership Award from Safe Kids Worldwide and has also been recognized as one of the 40 Under 40 in Public Health through the de Beaumont Foundation.

At the 2025 Safe Kids Worldwide International Childhood Injury Prevention Convention (PrevCon), Jessica was honored with the Martha Collar Partnership Award for their outstanding contributions in preventing childhood injuries. The award was presented at a three-day gathering that convened more than 600 child health and safety professionals from around the world, including academic researchers, community activists, health care providers, manufacturers, public health and injury prevention practitioners, and policy makers. This award, named for the beloved Oklahoma Safe Kids State Coordinator Martha Collar, recognizes an inspirational individual or organization that exhibits outstanding leadership and a commitment to collaboration and partnerships. Collar was known for her unique ability to “build bridges” and bring people together.

"Jessica's dedication to equity and community partnership exemplifies the true meaning of the Martha Collar Award," said Torine Creppy, President of Safe Kids Worldwide. "Her commitment to reaching families in every corner of Pennsylvania reflects the power of collective impact."

In addition, the de Beaumont Foundation announced the honorees of its "40 Under 40 in Public Health" Class of 2025 on October 14, 2025, after reviewing nominations from hundreds of professionals working to benefit state or local public health across the country. Jessica was selected due to their leadership and dedication to improving health for all in the state of PA. The Class of 2025 honorees include program managers, researchers, community engagement professionals, and senior leaders in state and local health departments, universities, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector. A panel of public health leaders evaluated nominees for their leadership, vision, cross-sectoral collaboration, and contributions to their community's health. Through this recognition and a one-year professional development program, members of the 40 Under 40 program will build a robust network, learn from their peers, and amplify the impact of their work.

"The 40 Under 40 Class of 2025 is a high-achieving, passionate group of professionals whose accomplishments and experience showcase the very best of the public health field," said Brian C. Castrucci, DrPH, president and CEO of the de Beaumont Foundation. "I look forward to working with them to advance health outcomes in communities across the nation."



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For more information on Safe Kids Worldwide, visit their website at [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org). For more information about the 40 Under 40 in Public Health, including a full list of honorees, visit [www.debeaumont.org/40Under40](http://www.debeaumont.org/40Under40).

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**Safe Kids Pennsylvania** (SKPA) is part of Safe Kids Worldwide's global network dedicated to keeping kids safe from preventable childhood injury, which is the number one cause of death among children ages 1 to 19. These injuries range from accidental falls to poisonings, car crashes, drownings, and many other unintentional injuries. SKPA promotes and supports childhood injury prevention activities through education, collaboration, and advocacy throughout Pennsylvania. SKPA is one of many statewide coalitions under Safe Kids Worldwide and is led by the American Trauma Society, PA Division. For more information on Safe Kids PA, visit our official SKPA [website](#) and social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).