



IDS Khronicle

a Publication for Instructors of radKIDS Personal Empowerment Safety Education

Quarter 1, 2004

Volume 5, Issue 1

Ed & Lois Smart Launch Partners in Safety

radKIDS has joined forces with Ed and Lois Smart in their national children's safety protection initiative called Partners in Safety.

On March 12, 2004, the one year anniversary of Elizabeth's amazing return home, Ed Smart and Mr. Steve announced this important program to the country on ABC's Good Morning America show. With the help of four seasoned radKID graduates (Corey, Aubrey, Bo and Mariah) who did an awesome job, Steve was able to demonstrate and explain the radKIDS program to millions.



Charles Gibson, Steve Daley, Ed Smart, Corey Daley, Aubrey Lemons, Miriah Yertes-Carter, and Bo Sjoberg pose for the cameras at ABC studios in New York City.

Partners in Safety is a program whose purpose is to equip children with skills and information necessary so that "when (children) are faced with situations, they can deal with them," said Smart in a recent interview to announce the program.

Lisa

Every Child Counts

by Erin Lehman

In the late fall of 2003. I received the most inspiring gift a radKIDS instructor could hope for. In a neighboring county, close to where I work, a rapist had been terrorizing the community for the better part of a month. Catching the perpetrator was proving difficult, as he acted with no particular pattern or focus - he chose to attack at all times of day in randomly selected areas. Girls and women of all ages were in danger of being preyed upon. None of his victims had been able to provide police with an accurate description of him. That is until he tried to abduct not one, but two radKIDS!

The two girls, cousins, were walking home from their grandparents' house when the unregistered sex offender jumped out from behind a building and threatened the girls with a knife. If they yelled, he said, he would kill them. Grabbing them both, he pulled them into some nearby woods.

The girls paid close attention to where he was taking them. Carefully noting landmarks, they tracked their path into the woods and began to devise a plan to get back to the busy street. They whispered and mouthed words to each other, drafting their radKIDS Plan.

Once in the woods the man ordered them, at knifepoint, to remove their clothes, telling the second girl not to move or he would kill her cousin. The second girl knew it was time to take a chance. She began to yell as

loud as she could! When the man looked toward her, the first girl kicked him in the groin, from the ground! With the would-be rapist temporarily stunned and disabled, the girls followed their planned route out to the street. There they met their grandfather who, concerned that the girls had not made it home yet, had set out in search of them. The two survivors triumphantly climbed into the safety of their grandfather's truck, explained to him what had happened, and called 911 from his cell phone. Those two superstar radKIDS were able to give



such an accurate description of their attacker that the police were able to identify and catch him within a week.

I could not be more proud of these brave girls who not only escaped, but also called 911, and provided the police what they needed to get this dangerous offender off the street. The feeling I got when the girls' parents hugged me and said, "Thank you, what you taught my daughter saved her life!" can not be described. I may have taught them the skills they needed, but these remarkable girls deserve all the credit for using what they learned to save themselves.

As a radKIDS instructor, I hope every day to keep striving, keep teaching, to bring the gift of the radKIDS program to as many children as I can, because at radKIDS we are truly building a safer world, one (or two!) child at a time!