

# FACT SHEET

## Safe Communities

**Mission:** Safe Communities, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit coalition that builds partnerships with people and organizations to save lives, prevent injuries and make our community safer.

**History:** The Coalition grew out of an exciting conference held in December 1998 where nearly 100 people from a wide range of organizations gathered and began making plans for greater collaboration toward a safer community. As of 2010, nearly 300 organizations are active members. We estimate that since joining forces in 1999, Safe Communities has directly improved the personal safety of over 30,000 people in Dane County.

**Vision:** Safe Communities is a catalyst to make Madison and Dane County the safest American community.

**Who We Are:** We're the "slow down yard sign" people – and more. We bring people and organizations together to tackle Dane County's top causes of serious injury and injury-related death. We consider our charge to be of vital importance since 90% of injuries can be prevented, AND the most vulnerable members of our community – older adults and children – are those most at risk.

**Member, International Network of Safe Communities:** In 2009, Safe Communities became one of only six coalitions in the United States and 160<sup>th</sup> world-wide to be welcomed into the International Network of Safe Communities. This honor, conferred by World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Community Safety, recognizes our organization as one that meets the highest standards of community injury prevention programming.

**Impacts:** We can and have made a difference. Our community partners have joined together to:

- Increase safety belt use among young drivers in rural communities by 4%;
- Build a falls prevention network for Dane County older adults touted by Centers for Disease Control as a national model;
- Educate 1,500 people on how to help someone they know survive a suicidal crisis;
- Help people get across the street safely with our pedestrian flag program and through community education;
- Provide over \$120,000 in grants to law enforcement, schools and neighborhoods for local safety efforts.

**Annual Budget, Revenue Sources and Staffing:** Safe Communities' 2011 budget is \$286,050. We employ two staff members: an executive director and a business manager. Staff's role is to coordinate efforts of partner organizations and to bring additional financial resources to safety in Dane County.

**Governance:** Safe Communities is governed by a board of directors with guidance from various task forces and workgroups.

**Membership:** Safe Communities membership is open to individuals and organizations who work in injury prevention and safety education, or who are interested in making Madison neighborhoods and Dane County communities safer places. You don't need to pay a membership fee to join our coalition, but it sure helps! Financial and in-kind contributions are welcome and encouraged.

**Contact:** For information on how to become involved, contact Cheryl Wittke, Executive Director, at (608) 256-6713 or [cwittke@safercommunity.net](mailto:cwittke@safercommunity.net); or visit [www.safercommunity.net](http://www.safercommunity.net).

### 2011 Revenue Breakdown

