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Donation funds purchase of child identification kits

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BY TIMES STAFF | Posted: Friday, July 17, 2009 12:00 am | @ (3) Comments

VALPARAISO | Northwest Indiana injury attorney Kenneth Allen and wife Nina watched Thursday as children at Hilltop Child Daycare received Kinderprint Child Identification kits. The Allens funded the purchase of those kits for every kindergartner and first-grade student in Lake, LaPorte and Porter County schools with a \$20,000 donation to the United Way serving those three counties.

Sharon Kish, president, United Way of Porter County, was thrilled with the Allens' gift.

"This is big," said Kish. "All three counties will benefit through this donation. It's very generous."

Through the donation, each school in those three counties will receive a Kinderprint kit, which contains tools and instructions for taking fingerprints, DNA samples, photos and dental records of children.

Bill Hanna, head of LaPorte County United Way, feels this was an important gift.

"This is an expensive item and we in LaPorte would not be able to provide this to the children without the help of the Allens," Hanna said. "I give the Allens a lot of credit for not only thinking about Porter County, but Lake and LaPorte, too."

Lou Martinez, president of Lake Area United Way was also on hand to thank the Allens for their generosity.

"It's nice to see leadership coming from the law profession," said Martinez. "Nice to see them step forward." This program is needed for families and children."

The Allens feel prevention is key to keeping kids safe and they feel this program is important.

"We have a lot to be grateful for and we want to do what we can for the children," said Kenneth Allen. "The key is prevention and when these kids bring the kits home I hope it sparks conversation between the parents and their children. Parents need to talk about this with their children."







