

SDCHIP Report

Five years ago SDCHIP was only a dream. Through countless hours of planning, promotion and the dedicated work of many brothers and volunteers SDCHIP was born in Aberdeen in April 2007 and has become a vibrant program.

We are now beginning our third year of operation. The benefit of SDCHIP for our kids, lodges and communities is beyond description. We have been recognized not only locally but also nationally for this program. Once again Masonry is the “go to” organization to get things done. Our lodge members have been able to become involved in a way that makes them feel good about what they are doing and proud to belong to our great Masonic fraternity.

By the time the 2009 Grand Lodge holds its annual communication there will have been 69 SDCHIP events held and we will have identified almost 8,000 children in the past two years!!! SDCHIP will have held over 40 events within the public schools; most being during school time. There have been a minimum of 48 lodges involved either directly as a host or providing countless volunteers to make SDCHIP successful. We have been ably assisted by the South Dakota Sheriffs Association and South Dakota Dental Association at our events. We owe special thanks to the various school systems allowing us space to operate and often times the manpower to organize and assist with the actual event. What a commitment by the Masons of South Dakota to educate our children about safety issues and abduction awareness!

SDCHIP is a program that all the Masons of South Dakota can be very proud of. The SDCHIP Committee is not funded by the Grand Lodge, and we are in need of more donations and gifts in order to allow this great program to thrive and grow. We need to purchase additional systems to make it easier to get from one event to another and provide this worthwhile program to more kids and families. Please support SDCHIP with your donations.

As some of you may be aware, I have made the decision to step down as the SDCHIP chairman at the conclusion of our Grand Lodge session in June. I have become very involved with MasoniCHIP International as its vice-president. Due to time and health constraints I will be focusing my attention in that direction. It is time to pass the torch on. RWB Jack Welker has a very capable and energetic team ready to go and take SDCHIP to the next level.

I thank each and every one of you for making SDCHIP such a success. The brothers and volunteers have made my job easy and all brothers “Proud To Be Masons”. Through your efforts, SDCHIP has truly become the premier child identification and safety education program in South Dakota.

Denny Robinson, PGM
SDCHIP State Chairman