



**EMSC Heroes – making a difference in a child’s life.**

**GFWC-WI & KIWANIS WI-UM**

Collaborate on the Emergency Medical Services for Children  
**Pediatric Bags for Ambulances Project**



Photo by Milwaukee Journal

Whew!

It's *not* your child.

But it *is* somebody's child.

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**What:** Please join the EMSC Heroes Club!

**Why:** It's a child.  
Life is priceless. Pediatric bags aren't.

**How:** **It's easy!** Pick one or more options. Please.  
a. Fund your local EMS department's ped bags.  
b. Fund your surrounding EMS department(s).  
c. For individual or business donations please see page 2 (For undesignated EMS contributions)

**When:** Now.  
Now's the time to help our dedicated, primarily volunteer, Emergency Medical Service providers help our children.



# Emergency Medical Services for Children Pediatric Bags for Ambulances

## Emergency Medical Services for Children

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program is a national initiative designed to reduce child and youth disability and death due to severe illness and injury. Medical personnel, parents, volunteers, community groups, businesses, national organizations and foundations all contribute to the effort.

### Children are NOT Small Adults

A seriously ill or injured child - the most difficult emergency call for an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) provider. For children, every minute, every second counts. A pediatric patient is not simply a "small adult"; thus the treatment of a child is vastly different from the treatment of an adult. A pediatric call could mean a premature infant, a 7-year old or a 15-year old. Their size and needs are completely different.

The current standard of EMS sifting through a drawer, or tackle box, or pulling supplies from 16 different locations in an ambulance to find the correct sized equipment is simply not acceptable for our children or for our dedicated (and primarily volunteer) EMS. GFWC-WI and Kiwanis WI-UM are collaborating together to supply every ambulance in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan with Pediatric Jump Kit Bags (Ped Bags).

**A Ped Bag is a specialized kit that puts critical pediatric emergency supplies in one place.** Ped Bags enable EMS providers to handle emergency calls involving children with organized, easily accessible, properly sized equipment - based on the size range of the child, saving valuable time in treating these young patients. Ped Bags correspond to a nationally recognized a color-coded system: the ENA (Emergency Nurses Association) Crash Cards, a medical reference guide containing critical information for pediatric patients (hospitals use the color-code system).

We *can* positively, quickly, and easily change the standard of care for children in need of emergency care in Wisconsin.

Funding pediatric jump kit bags is an incredible gift; not only for the children, but also to show our dedicated, compassionate EMS that we are willing to help them do their vital job.

# Emergency Medical Services for Children Pediatric Bags for Ambulances

## Project Goal

GFWC-WI's State Special Project & the WI-UM Kiwanis EMS Pediatric Bag Project will combine the strengths of both clubs to accomplish one important goal - funding the now nationally known and award winning EMSC Pediatric Bags for Ambulances Project (initiated in 2003 by the Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club).

Our clubs will work together to fund specialized bags that put critical pediatric emergency equipment and supplies in one place for Wisconsin and Upper Michigan's ambulances.

These "Ped Bags" will enable EMS (Emergency Medical Service providers) to respond to pediatric calls with organized, easily accessible and properly sized equipment for all size children.

## The Numbers

Wisconsin has 446 EMS Departments with approximately 1,200 ambulances. 240 EMS Departments now carry Ped Bags on all their ambulances; 57 Departments have at least one Ped Bag or are in progress. About 149 EMS Departments still need funding for their Ped Bags.

Upper Michigan's information unavailable.

20% of both Wisconsin and Upper Michigan's population are children.

## The Costs

The approved Pediatric Jump Kit Bag supply lists were submitted for bid to four national medical suppliers. EMP in Waukesha, WI, came back with exceptional pricing. The BLS (Basic Life Support) Ped Bag for EMT level ambulances is \$475. The ALS (Advanced Life Support) Ped Bag for Paramedic level ambulances is \$735. The First Responder Ped Bag is \$210. Most Intermediate services use the ALS Ped Bag and do not order what they can't use. These are approximate prices - eventually our cost may increase - and only valid if we work with Marc at EMP.

# Emergency Medical Services for Children Pediatric Bags for Ambulances

## Benefits

### Positively impacts, each time a Ped Bag is used

- The child(ren)
- The family
- The EMS professional

### Tremendous PR opportunity

- Increase club membership
- Increase awareness of your club in the community

### Create lasting relationships with

- Your EMS/fire departments
- EMSC
- Businesses
- Other volunteer organizations
- Your community

## Getting Started

- Meet and discuss the project with your club. Will you work on the EMSC Ped Bag project as an individual Club, in combination with another Club, or as a District? How many EMS departments do you want to impact? Discuss ways to raise funds. Business and friends will donate if you ask!
- Think about PR opportunities and use them. (Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club more than doubled their membership by calling potential new members: they had seen the media/PR - articles and photo submissions about the Ped Bag project and were impressed).
- Call your EMS department(s). Who is the contact person? (usually the EMS Chief) Are they willing to review the Ped Bag list and accept either a Ped Bag or the supplies they don't have from the list? How many ambulances do they have and what level of service? (EMT, IV Tech, Paramedic)
- Please feel free to call/e-mail for help (see Contacts and Resources).

- Please update Elizabeth Davy, [ESD@LCE.BIZ](mailto:ESD@LCE.BIZ), and Patricia Brinkman, [brinkpa@att.net](mailto:brinkpa@att.net), with the WI EMS departments you are **working with** (in case of duplication and for tracking purposes. And we need to know when we are almost done).
- Patricia & Elizabeth need to know: Your club name, the EMS/Fire Department name and location, the number of Ped Bags, BLS or ALS, the number of ambulances, and the date of funding or expected funding. Thank you for making tracking this state-wide project easier!

## Funding the Ped Bags

Authorize the EMS/Fire Department to order "x" number of Ped Bags. The Department orders:

1. The complete Ped Bag(s) from the EMP BLS or ALS supply list/bid, or
2. The supplies needed (they already have some of the supplies) from the EMP BLS or ALS supply list/bid.

Your club then reimburses them when the Ped Bag is ready to go into service (please be prompt in paying them). Note: The Department may need something in writing stating your intentions.

## The Ped Bag Project Update

January 2003: 99% of Wisconsin's EMS departments did NOT have the critical Ped Bags on even one ambulance.

July 2010: 54% (240) of Wisconsin's EMS departments have Ped Bags on ALL their ambulances and 14% (57) have at least one Ped Bag but need more. 149 (32%) EMS departments do not have even one Ped Bag in service. Additionally, 51 (22%) First Responder departments now carry a FR Ped Bag.

GFWC-WI and WI-UP Kiwanis clubs and club members have *significantly changed the standard of care* for children in need of emergency medical care in Wisconsin! With our efforts, **thousands of children in a medical emergency, every year, now have a better chance of a positive outcome.** THANK YOU for making a difference for all the children and their families in our great state!!

# Emergency Medical Services for Children Pediatric Bags for Ambulances

## Sample Call to EMS/Fire Department

***Good morning.*** (Smile, they can hear it.) ***My name is \_\_\_\_\_.*** ***I am with the \_\_\_\_\_ Club.*** ***Our club is working on a project to provide Pediatric Jump Kit Bags for ambulances.*** ***Who would I speak to regarding this?***

(You are usually referred to the EMS Chief/Captain.)

***Good morning.*** (Smile, they can hear it.) ***My name is \_\_\_\_\_.*** ***I am with the \_\_\_\_\_ Club.*** ***Our club is working on a project to provide Pediatric Jump Kit Bags for ambulances.*** ***Do you have 10 minutes or should I call back at a better time?*** (One EMS Chief was pulled out of the shower to take my call - I called back).

***Have you heard of the Ped Bag project where clubs are funding Pediatric Jump Kit Bags for ambulances?*** (If yes, then some of the below can be reduced).

***The Ped Bag has been approved by Wisconsin's Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Board.*** ***The Ped Bag is carried on every ambulance in Waukesha County, Wisconsin, all ALS ambulances in Milwaukee County, and several other ambulances in the state.*** ***It has received national awards.***

***The \_\_\_\_\_ Club would like our ambulances to carry the Ped Bag also.*** ***We would like to fund it for the \_\_\_\_\_ EMS/Fire Department.*** (Be clear when you can fund the Ped Bag; if it's months away, the department needs to know this.)

***I'd like to e-mail/mail/bring you the Ped Bag supply list spreadsheet and a picture of the Ped Bag.*** (There are several levels of EMS - see The Costs for more info).

Exchange contact information and tell them you'll contact them in a week (or two?) to follow up and see if they have any questions. If they need further information or convincing, refer them to one of the Contacts & Resources or you can offer to get them a phone number of an EMS/Fire department using the Ped Bags. I have a few exceptional contacts, but would like to use this option sparingly (they are already over worked). Please contact someone on the EMSC committee if you need this option.

Not all EMS/Fire Departments will be willing to accept the Ped Bags. Do not lose hope! Please supply another EMS/Fire Department for now. Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club supplied every ambulance in Waukesha County with Ped Bags. Some departments immediately said yes, yet one took over three years to decide they wanted to carry them. Be patient and respectful.

Keep in mind; we are trying to provide these Ped Bags before end of summer 2008.

# Emergency Medical Services for Children Pediatric Bags for Ambulances

## Quotes

### **Children are NOT Small Adults!**

"The physiologic, anatomic, developmental and emotional characteristics of children, and their unique health care needs, make it difficult for care providers to meet those needs optimally in adult-patient oriented...emergency medical services (EMS) systems. Effective emergency care for children requires specialized training and equipment. These important differences, and the continued presence of a significant gap in the delivery of emergency care in the pediatric population, are the rationale behind the federal EMSC program."

*Carol Berkowitz, MD, FAAP, President, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, explaining why EMSC must be kept and federally funded.*

"I recently received word that our EMS Unit would be receiving an ALS Pediatric Jump Kit bag from your organization's Program. It brings tears to my eyes. Many of us who have been in EMS for a long time always remember a child's life that was lost. There is always the thought that we wish we could have done more. We wish the outcome had turned out differently. We all hope and pray we never have to experience that kind of loss again. Having your equipment means so much to all of us. If it can make a difference for one family, it will be well worth it. We gratefully appreciate your efforts. Thank you so much." *Jefferson EMS*

"Thank you so much for all your help and grant money for our Pediatric Jump Kit. The week after we put it into service, we had to use it for an eighteen-month-old patient. This kit provides us with access to quick and easy equipment. Our rural area will greatly benefit from it. We truly appreciate all that GFWC & Elizabeth have done for us." *Scenic Valley EMS*

### A few comments from EMS departments requesting funding for Ped Bags:

"...we are definitely lacking some equipment, especially for the really tiny peds patients. We of course carry what the State...requires...but there is so much more that the kit contains that would be beneficial."

"This is a wonderful project. Thank you to your organization for offering this. This equipment will be very beneficial in rural areas of the state, where sometimes it can take us up to an hour to get our patients to the hospitals because of the remote area we live in and serve."

"I am desperately hoping they [GFWC-WI Club] will be able to sponsor our service..."

"We cover six townships...about 290 square miles of area...average 900 calls per year...We currently have no [Ped Bags] due to budget concerns...we just cannot afford such equipment..."

"We have two large campgrounds in the area we cover...several hundred children of all ages every weekend throughout the year. In summer...every day of the week... the potential for young patients...I know we need a more comprehensive kit."