

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Gary Cabaday
814/870-1402
Fax: 814/455-2184
gcabaday@erie.pa.us

City, County Join Together to Thank GE Transportation Systems for Supporting Erie Area Safe Kids !

Erie, Pa. (November 1, 2007) - Mayor Joseph E. Sinnott, members of the City of Erie Fire Department, County Executive Mark DiVecchio and other Erie County Officials joined together to thank GE Transportation Systems for their outstanding contribution to Erie Area Safe Kids - Protect the Place You Call Home program. Through the efforts of GE's Community Service Fund, General Electric was able to make a donation to the on-going smoke detector program, affording hundreds of local families to receive smoke and carbon monoxide detectors at little or no cost.

The Erie Fire Department, working closely with Mayor Joe Sinnott, County Executive Mark DiVecchio, the International Association of Firefighters Local 293, Erie County Health Department, Erie Area Safe Kids and a number of local volunteer fire departments have been distributing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to area homes since 2005. These smoke detectors have a ten-year lithium battery and, if purchased in the store, would cost residents nearly \$30.00. Carbon monoxide detectors plug into the wall and also retail for \$30.00.

The city's Chief Fire Investigator and Coordinator of the smoke detector program, Gary Cabaday, believes this program will save lives and limit property damage. Cabaday, recognized in *Firehouse* magazine for his efforts, began working on the smoke detector project during the summer of 2005. During that year, the city of Erie lost 10 residents in fires. In his mind, getting detectors into the homes of every city resident is the answer. The program is expanding to include detectors geared specifically for children. Rather than an alarm sounding, a child hears a familiar voice waking them up. In addition, detectors for the deaf are also being provided. A strobe light flashes and the bed shakes to alert the deaf to danger.

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Fire Codes in the City of Erie require homeowners to have a smoke detector on every level of their home, including the basement, a detector outside the bedroom area and in every sleeping area. For more information on smoke and carbon monoxide detectors or to make a donation, call Cabaday at 870-1402.

PROTECT THE PLACE YOU CALL HOME

BY THE NUMBERS NATIONALLY

- 75% of fatal fires are in homes without working smoke detectors
- 80,000 home fires were started by candles in 2006
- Carbon monoxide is the number one cause of accidental poisoning.
- A smoke detector can be purchased for as little as \$5.00.

You and your family are worth it.

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