

The Canadian Institute of Child Health proudly announces 2006 National Child Day Award Recipients: Barbara Underhill and Rick Gaetz

Barbara A. Underhill

World Figure Skating Champion & National Role Model

Barbara first made her mark as a figure skater. She and her partner, Paul Martini, after having won five consecutive National Pair Championships in Canada from 1979-1983, went on to win the 1984 World Pair Skating Championship in Ottawa. They went on to a 14-year professional career, winning seven World Professional titles and were inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame. The voices of figure skating for fifteen years now, Barb and Paul continue to provide colour commentary for CBC. Barbara enjoys sharing her skating journey with school-aged children, encouraging them to pursue their dreams.



Richard E. Gaetz

Business Magazine #1 CEO (2004)

Rick is President and Chief Executive Officer of Vitran Corporation Inc. and was named National Post *BUSINESS* Magazine's top CEO in 2004 for his leadership role in the exponential growth and development of Vitran. He received his Bachelor of Commerce degree from Dalhousie University in Halifax in 1979 and attended the MBA program at Western Washington University. Rick has worked in the transportation and logistics industry for more than 24 years. He is a Director of the Ontario Trucking Association and the Canadian Trucking Alliance.



Both Barbara and Rick recognize the importance of balancing successful careers with family time and community participation. They are both very involved in several charitable initiatives, but their most important focus outside of family and work is their work in child safety.

In 1993 Barbara and Rick experienced the tragic loss of their daughter, Stephanie, in a backyard swimming pool accident. In her memory, they founded The Stephanie Gaetz KEEPSAFE Foundation dedicated to reducing the incidence of childhood injury across Canada.

Working with organizations such as the Lifesaving Society and SafeKids Canada as well as regional and community safety groups, Barbara and Rick have been extremely proactive in identifying and undertaking safety promotion initiatives, especially in the area of water safety.

This past year the foundation funded the development and roll out of the Lifesaving Society's new "Swim to Survive" program. The program teaches children the three essential skills needed to survive an unexpected fall into water. It is expected the program will reach well over 30,000 school children this year.

In 2003 'Stephanie's Place' was opened in Brampton, Ontario with a unique 'Life Safety Centre' where school-aged children are taught important life safety skills. This year the Foundation supported the development of two new safety DVD's with a focus on Home Safety and Car Seat Safety.

As a result of these efforts, hundreds of thousands of children and families have received important safety information and instruction through workshops, their teachers' resource centre, brochures, and a series of videos providing parents and caregivers with safety information.

Through their leadership in the areas of injury prevention and safety promotion, as well as in their personal and professional lives, Barbara and Rick have made significant contributions to enhance the lives of children and young people growing up in Canada today.

