

**Benton-Franklin
Health District**
www.bfhd.wa.gov

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Safe Kids Worldwide
www.safekids.org

**Washington Department
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**National Highway Traffic
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Life Jacket Donation Drive

The 11th Annual Paris White Life Jacket Drive will take place on Saturday, September 7th at Creations Salon & Spa in Richland. New and gently used life jackets will be collected by the Paris White Foundation and then donated to Safe Kids Benton-Franklin to be placed on life jacket loaner boards throughout Benton and Franklin Counties.

The event is held in honor of Paris White, a toddler who drowned in her family's pool in 2005. Paris's family formed the Paris White Foundation to provide life jackets and educate communities on the risks of drownings and near drownings. Drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4.

"We are extremely grateful to the Paris White Foundation for their continued support of our life jacket loan program," said Kathleen Clary-Cooke, Coordinator for Safe Kids Benton-Franklin. "We stock 15 loaner boards and four permanent loan stations in the area so that people can borrow a life jacket when they need one."

New or gently used life jackets can be dropped off Saturday between 10 am and 4 pm at Creations Salon & Spa, 87 Keene Rd., Richland. Cash and check donations will also be accepted to purchase life jackets.

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