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Leadership Jackson County class devises kit to help keep children safe

By **CLINT MORGAN**

Three local individuals say they have developed a plan to keep Jackson County first-graders safe.

Paul Ramsey, Tia Rogers and Tammy Dye presented the information for the "child safety packets" to their fellow classmates of Leadership Jackson County during the program's graduation day Thursday at Seymour City Hall.

In all 19 individuals from a variety of occupations participated and graduated this year, LJC Executive Director Ann Windley said.

Ramsey, the county health department's environmental health director, Rogers, a loan operations manager at Jackson County Bank, and Dye, director of women and children services at Schneck Medical Center, decided to dedicate their final leadership project to developing the safety kits, in hopes that the items could catch on in the community in future years.

"This is a guide to stimulate communication between parents and children relating to different situations," Dye said. During the presentation, the group had Rogers pose as a child and Ramsey as a possible abductor, and then discussed preventative methods to the class.

"Our main goal was not to scare parents, but to inform them in ways to prevent bad things from happening," she said.

The group's child safety kit included a fingerprinting kit, literature for parents and children on ways to keep children safe and a cover letter describing the kit to either a parent or a school. The project was one of several this year, Windley said, that focused on safety in one way or another. Other projects included a training aid for county firemen.

"Every year each group or team brings a unique approach, and I think that happened again this year," Windley said. "Their perspectives reflect the times we are in and the concerns people have."

Windley has been in charge of LJC for much of its 21-year existence. The program offers



Tia Rogers and Paul Ramsey, who, along with 17 other Jackson County individuals, graduated from **Leadership Jackson Cou** Thursday, presented their classmates with scenario that would call for the use of their team's proposed child safety kits. The presentation took place during the LJC graduation day activities Thursday. Tribune photo by Clint Morgan

individuals a chance to work in a small class setting to develop leadership skills that can then be used throughout the county. It began in 1982 with a grant from Eli Lilly and was organized through the Greater Seymour Chamber of Commerce.

As with many of the projects discussed Thursday, Ramsey, Dye and Rogers said they plan to continue to work on distributing their safety kits now that the leadership class is over. Windley says her job is to make that happen.

"These 19 graduates have made a commitment to involve themselves in some way with the community," Windley said. "My responsibility would be to relay this information to the county's boards and local groups."

"I can't say enough about what the leadership program has done for me personally and professionally," Rogers said. "I enjoyed working with my group and we hope that we can find an organization to help us carry our idea into the future."