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I once heard someone say that "Good intentions are meaningless without the courage to act on them." ForMak was created not only to honor the life and memory of my son, Makaili "Mak" Evans, but to demand and prioritize safety, not only for children walking to and from school, but for our entire community.

I am proud to share how ForMak has shed light on this important issue, and how you, our community, can continue to support us in advocating for safety in school zones.

In June 2023, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported that one hundred and eleven people die annually in school-transportation-related crashes, enough to fill 3 classrooms! We have shared our local news source's report about this alarming statistic on our website, Formak307.com.

A new study by the injury attorney firm Bader Scott reveals that Wyoming holds the unfortunate record for the highest percentage of pedestrian and cyclist involved crashes in school zones in the United States. The study analyzed data from NHTSA between 2014-2021 to assess where the accidents were most present in the country. The data indicates that Wyoming's school zone crash rate sits at 2.94%. Conversely, in the densely populated state of Washington, whose 7.7 million population is more than thirteen times that of Wyoming, the rate was zero.

We need to do better for our children and our community. This is where action starts and we prioritize safety.

- For the past two years, with the help of ForMak community sponsors, donors, and volunteers, we have begun to make changes, including bringing awareness to this critical issue.
- In addition to the federal grant money received, ForMak is contributing matching funds in the amount of \$57,060 for ongoing HAWK Systems projects (High Intensity Activated Lights) at both McCormick Jr. High and Baggs Elementary.
- ForMak has also contributed matching funds in the amount of \$13,136 to assist in a city-wide audit currently being performed by Stantec for a detailed look at every school within our city to assess the infrastructure



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and what changes are necessary to provide a safer route to and from school whether a child bikes or walks. This audit is scheduled to be complete in the fall of this year.

- ForMak participates in a monthly Safe Routes to School meeting discussing how to improve safety, including but not limited to,
 - signage, proper lighting, crosswalks and pathways, advocating for crossing guards at all schools, and upgrades to infrastructure as well as education of pedestrians and drivers. We are joined in this meeting by the City of Cheyenne Engineers, Representatives from LCSD#1 and LCSD#1 transportation, Safe Kids Laramie County, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), parents and other invested parties.

ForMak invites you to join our cause.

Whether you are a new sponsor/donor or you are already a ForMak warrior, we need you and your continued support. We invite you to sponsor the 3rd annual ForMak 5k fun run/walk on Saturday, June 8, 2024.

Check out the enclosed form for steps on how to sign up.

We will celebrate Mak's memory with new tie-dyed black and red shirts displaying our local sponsors on the back. We are excited to share that this year, thanks to Foot of the Rockies, our race will be chip timed. We will have an auction/raffle, 50/50 raffle, local food and beverage trucks, a DJ, photographer, lots of family and friends, and an overwhelming sense of community.

We proudly hold a record for largest 5k in Wyoming history, and we know we can continue to make a difference when our community shows up and walks in unity for the safety of our children. We do all of this in loving memory of Makaili James Evans.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Janelle Jones
President, ForMak