

Keeping kids safe from abduction

AFTER THE HIGH-profile kidnapping and murder of a young girl in Florida in 2004 garnered national media attention, Tim Reca, a Costco member in Baltimore, thought about his 12-year-old daughter and how to keep her safe. He got a video about kid safety for her to watch but was dismayed by its four-hour length.

A videographer and editor by trade, Reca believed he could do better. Working on a project with writer-director Ann Mooney, they started discussing a video of their own—something to reach out to kids, not push them away.

The result is an award-winning DVD titled *Not Me*, a 22-minute film for children 8 to 14, with vignettes about dangers for children and how to deal with them. The concept is kids talking to kids and features an 11-year-old host. The producers urged the participating child actors to offer feedback throughout the shoot.

"We wanted to keep it non-threatening," Reca says. The video points out that danger exists, but if you do the right things, you'll be OK.

It is currently being used in the Baltimore County public school system and is available at www.safermetv.com.

—Steve Fisher

11-year-old Cassidy Higdon, host of *Not Me*, and writer-director Ann Mooney.

