



# ACTION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2006

## Kids In Danger (KID)

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety. KID was founded in 1998 by Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar, the parents of sixteen-month-old Danny Keysar who died in his Chicago childcare home when a portable crib collapsed around his neck.



## KID's Mission

is to **promote** the development of safer children's products, **advocate** for children, and **educate** the public, especially parents and caregivers, about dangerous children's products.

**Read program updates and see pictures from our 2006 Best Friend Award Night inside →**

## News on children's product safety

News from the **US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)** shows that injuries involving nursery products that required emergency room care were down 14% since 2001. However, nearly 60,000 children were rushed to emergency rooms last year due to injuries involving nursery products. Almost 25% of those injuries involved baby carriers or infant seats – not in use in automobiles. Strollers were responsible for the next highest number of injuries at 10,800 followed by cribs (9,800) and high chairs (7,300). It is impossible to know how many of the products involved were recalled or not working properly. The CPSC reports that the leading cause of the 59,800 injuries was falls, suggesting a need to reexamine the design and safety features of these products.

You can read inside about KID's work to make products safer. If you don't get our monthly email news alert, here are some stories you may have missed:

- **Shopping Cart Safety:** The American Academy of Pediatrics has issued a report and parent guidelines on shopping carts. With 24,000 injuries a year, the AAP has said that the current voluntary standard for shopping carts is inadequate and recommends that parents avoid shopping carts to carry children if possible. If not, safety straps are imperative. AAP has called on the ASTM committee setting the standard to strengthen the requirements to avoid tip-overs and falls.
- **Vapor Patches:** The FDA has recalled two vapor patches for children, one by Triaminic and another by Mentholatum, because of reports that children remove the patches and eat or mouth them – exposing them to dangerous levels of the ingredients.
- **Lunch Boxes:** The FDA also issued a letter to manufacturers of vinyl lunch boxes to avoid the use of lead. Studies have found levels of lead in children's lunchboxes.

You can read more about these stories and sign up for our monthly alert at [www.KidsInDanger.org](http://www.KidsInDanger.org).

And as a reminder, as you surf or shop on the web, you can support Kids In Danger. First, sign onto [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) for your search engine. Enter KID as your supported charity and we receive a small contribution every time you search. While shopping, start at [www.Buyforcharity.com](http://www.Buyforcharity.com) and KID receives a rebate from your purchases.



# Spotlight

Kenny was a bright-eyed, exuberant 21-month-old boy when eight tiny magnets took him from this world forever. On Thanksgiving Day 2005, Kenny was rushed to the emergency room after suffering from what appeared to be flu-like symptoms. Unbeknownst to his parents, Penny and Kenneth Sweet, Kenny had swallowed tiny magnets from his brother's Magnetix toy on two separate occasions. Poison had entered his body from the first group of magnets that were corroding in Kenny's lower intestine. The second group attached to the first forming a bulbous and causing gangrene. Kenny's little body could not sustain the trauma that these eight magnets wrought.



The Magnetix building toy proved a hazard to children because the small magnets that link the pieces together separated from the plastic pieces, even after only slight use. As Kenny's siblings played with their new toy, small magnetic pieces fell to the floor disappearing into the carpeting. Although the toy was used appropriately and kept out of reach of Kenny, its dangerous components were still found by the toddler.

In fact, all toys with small magnets can be hazardous to young children. Penny Sweet explains, "small magnets cause intestinal tissue to die, become toxic to other organs and gangrenous after corrosion begins, perforate stomach and intestinal tissue, and magnetize through intestinal walls causing an obstruction; all of which happened to Kenny. These magnets need to be banned. Until then, people need to be informed of the danger and what to do, proper warnings need to be issued and labels need to change to inform parents of the dangers, and the medical field needs to know the proper way to treat magnetic ingestion."



*The CPSC has recalled all 3.8 million Magnetix building sets sold prior to April 2006. There have been hundreds of reports to CPSC of children swallowing or inhaling magnets, including at least 12 extremely serious injuries involving surgery in children under the age of 8. The ASTM F-22 Sub-committee on Toy Safety has a task force to evaluate possible standards that would address the hazard including labeling and testing requirements. Parents should return all Magnetix toys purchased prior to April 2006 to Rose Art for a replacement toy. In addition, discontinue use and return any newer sets that lose magnets.*

# KID Program Updates

Kids In Danger has always believed that the solution to unsafe children's products requires a multipronged approach – promoting the development of safer products, advocating for legislative and regulatory changes, and educating parents and caregivers. Our activities this year show progress in all three areas.

## TEACH EARLY SAFETY TESTING (TEST)

KID has been working for several years to develop curriculum materials that can be used in the University engineering classroom to teach the importance of safety in design. Using children's products as examples, KID has developed lecture notes and slides, student projects and resources that accomplish that goal. This summer, KID presented the materials at the annual conference of the **American Association for Engineering Education** in Chicago. Over 100 interested college professors stopped by to learn more and KID distributed 15 curriculum sets which will be piloted in schools this year. Feedback from these programs will allow us to fine tune the materials. For more information, email Nancy Cowles at [nancy@kidsindanger.org](mailto:nancy@kidsindanger.org).

## SAFE FROM THE START

Our outreach efforts continued over the summer with KID participating in safety fairs and distributing both our DVD and workshop materials to many new locations. KID's materials are now used in childbirth classes, childcare training seminars, parenting classes, pediatrician's offices and more. KID thanks Paul Karabush for his technical support on this project and many KID activities. Visit our publications page at [www.KidsInDanger](http://www.KidsInDanger) to see materials that we have available.

## CHILDREN'S PRODUCT SAFETY ACT

Over the summer, KID worked to increase contact in states without the Children's Product Safety Act (CPSA). We are always eager to talk with interested advocacy groups and lawmakers in every state to introduce this lifesaving legislation. Did you know that without the CPSA in place it is legal for second hand dealers to sell products that have previously been recalled? Or that in most states there is no mechanism in place to educate childcare providers about recalls and other product dangers – leaving millions of children vulnerable to these unsafe products? Help us pass this important law in your state – remember only Illinois, Michigan, Arkansas, Louisiana, Rhode Island, Missouri and Vermont have this law in place. Contact us at [email@kidsindanger.org](mailto:email@kidsindanger.org).

You can help us improve and increase our program outreach. Use the inserted reply envelope to send your donation to KID today.



# Best Friend Award Night 2006

On April 25, 2006, Kids In Danger presented our 2006 Best Friend Award to **Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan** for her efforts to keep Illinois children safe from dangerous children's products.



The award presentation took place at our sixth annual Best Friend Award Night held at Marché Restaurant in Chicago. The Attorney General spoke of the importance of children's product safety and her efforts to make it a priority in Illinois. **Janet Davies**, Host and Executive Producer of ABC Channel 7 Chicago's 190 North, served as the Master of Ceremonies. This was one of KID's best attended events, raising almost \$50,000 for our programs aimed at protecting children by improving children's product safety. Special thanks to Marché and our event committee, especially chair Leslie Batterson, auction chair Lisa Turano and Karen Bertoli who worked tirelessly to solicit great auction prizes and recruit many attendees to the event.

You can see more pictures at our website, [www.KidsInDanger.org](http://www.KidsInDanger.org).



## Left Column

Left Picture: Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan

Right Picture: Janet Davies

## Right Column, Top to Bottom

Picture #1: Blake Batterson, Suzanne Larimer, Elizabeth Bayston and Leslie Batterson

Picture #2: Beth Keegan and Marla Felcher

Picture #3: Lisa Madigan, Boaz Keysar and Ely Keysar

Picture #4: Judy Sage

Picture #5: Judy Sage, Lisa Turano Solano and Linda Ginzal





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**KID warmly welcomes our newest staff members.** Sarah Chusid is KID's program associate, responsible for our outreach and advocacy efforts. We say good-bye to Lisa Tucker as our administrative staff and welcome Laura Sharp in that role. Lisa had been with KID since January 2005. Laura, a student at DePaul University, interned with KID over the summer. We thank Lisa and look forward to Laura and Sarah's contributions to KID's work.

## Donor & Supporter Notes

This summer Ely Keysar celebrated his Bar Mitzvah. In honor of his brother Danny, Ely asked for contributions to Kids In Danger in lieu of the traditional gifts. His generosity and that of those who love him raised over \$10,000 for Kids In Danger. We are proud to carry on our work in honor of Danny Keysar and his family.

KID Executive Director Nancy Cowles spoke at Alma College in March of this year in honor of Women's Month. Alma College made a generous contribution to KID in lieu of an honorarium. We also received a donation from the Des Plaines Firemen Association who chose KID as the recipient of their fundraising efforts.

KID would also like to thank Marquis Jet, John and Rose Lineweaver for the Danny Foundation, Zozo for Kids and Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises for contributions this year. Each of these gifts allows KID to move closer to our goal of safer children's products.

This newsletter was made possible by the generous contributions of Peggy Groves Design, 704-770-0754 & printing by JB Graphics, Inc. (773) 539-7457.

