



Protecting Children by Improving Children's Product Safety

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Senator Richard Durbin
will be this year's
honoree at the 2008 Best
Friend Award Night on
April 18, 2008.

Donor & Supporter Notes

Kids In Danger would like to thank everyone who gave to our year-end appeal. Your generosity brought in almost \$50,000 in that effort. We would especially like to thank **The Elias Foundation** for their \$10,000 gift, **Philip H. Corboy Foundation** for \$1,000, **Keith and Jodi Hebeisen** for \$1,000, **Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar** for \$10,000, **France LeClerc and Dick Thaler** for \$2,000, the **Romano Family Foundation** for \$1,000, **Lawrence Sayah** for \$1,000, **Dan Shapiro** for \$1,200, the **Lester and Edna Shapiro Foundation** for \$6,000, **The Turano Foundation** for \$2,500, and **Bob and Jill Tanz** for \$1,000.

Special thanks to **Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.** for their \$25,000 grant for KID's programming, including our innovative TEST program to integrate design safety into engineering education. KID also received a grant from the **American Legion Child Welfare Foundation** for our Safe from the Start outreach program.

Many supporters paid tribute to family members and others with their donations. KID received **donations in memory of** Hal Leavitt, Andy Sage, Belle Shook, Danny Keysar, and Miriam Sussman. Donations were made **in honor of the births** of Charlotte Wolin, Esther Devorah, Max Aaron Bardach, Sydney So, Tristan Schroeder, Tyler & William Koonin, and Tyler Jack Malcolm. KID also received **donations to honor** Catherine Fitzmaurice, Dan Gilbert & Marilyn Oliphant, Judy Sage, Katherine Schipper, Linda Ginzel, Lisa Parker, Lynn Savanese, Shawn Kasserman, Sonny Garg & Julia Harris, the Ginzel-Keysar family, and Sarah Pettit & David Schimmel.

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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.



Safe from the Start

On February 6, KID launched a pilot outreach program with Junior Achievement (JA) at Simpson Academy for Girls, a Chicago high school, which empowers at-risk teenage moms to develop leadership skills and to work in their communities raising awareness about children's product safety. KID and JA hope it proves a successful model to take our important safety message into underserved communities.

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.

**Help KID celebrate
our 10th anniversary.**

See inside →

ACTION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

The Year of the Recall: Children's Product Recalls Double; Injuries up 374%

Media reports, millions of lead-tainted toys and Congressional hearings have thrust children's product safety into the spotlight over the past year. But headlines don't tell the whole story. Recalled products in 2007 included car seat carriers which dumped their occupants; a recall of deadly cribs that left consumers without a repair for more than a month, and millions of dangerous products that will probably remain in homes and child care because of inadequate efforts to reach consumers.

Kids In Danger released **2007: The Year of the Recall**, an annual study of recalled children's products. The report found that children's product recalls by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in 2006 recalls jumped in 2007. There were 231 recalls accounting for more than 46 million items, including twelve recalls that involved one million or more units.

"These products together caused at least 657 injuries and 6 deaths," stated Nancy Cowles, Executive Director of Kids In Danger. "And those incidents include only those already reported at the time of the recall. More needs to be done to protect children from these hazards." Additional findings of the report include:

- Toys constituted almost half of recalled children's product recalls with over 30 million units.
- Thirty-eight manufacturers recalled more than one product in 2006. Mattel led the list with seven under its Fisher-Price brand and six under the Mattel brand.
- When manufacturers and regulators went looking for lead in children's products, they found it. Just under half, 49%, of the recalls involved a lead hazard.
- Over half (53%) of the sporting goods and almost half (48%) of the nursery products recalled caused injury before they were pulled from the market.

KID recommends:

- Congress must act quickly to enact pending legislation that would increase funding and strengthen CPSC and require pre-market testing by independent laboratories of all children's products and toys.
- States should enact legislation to ban the sale of recalled products or their use in childcare facilities. Only eight states, including Illinois, now have a Children's Product Safety Act.
- Lead should be banned in any children's products. Manufacturers should have to certify that their products and product components are lead-free.

KID was joined at the press conference by US Representative Jan Schakowsky (IL 9), as well as representatives of Illinois PIRG, Lead Safe Illinois Housing Coalition and the Illinois Attorney General's office.

KID recommends that parents check the products used with their children at cpsc.gov and sign up for safety updates at [KidsInDanger.org](http://www.KidsInDanger.org). In addition, parents should report problems with a product both to the manufacturer and the CPSC and urge elected representatives to push for better regulation of children's products.

The full report is available at www.KidsInDanger.org

Spotlight on Crib Safety: Liam Johns and Abigail Hartung

Two recalls highlighted in our report highlight the flaws of the children's product safety system. First, in September, Simplicity recalled one million cribs sold under the Graco and Simplicity names. Design flaws, faulty hardware and misleading instructions had led to at least 3 deaths and many injuries as the cribs fell apart in use. Simplicity had recalled several of the 12 models of cribs previously for other design problems. It took more than a month after the recall for Simplicity to start sending the repair kit to parents, even as Scott Wolfson of CPSC said on the day of the recall, "we don't want children spending another night in this crib." After the recall, more deaths were reported.

Liam Johns

On April 11, 2005, Liam's mother put him to bed around 8 pm: she checked on him before she went to bed and he was fine. In the morning, she went into his room but couldn't see him at first. He was trapped between the side rail that had pushed away from the crib and the mattress. "When I walked closer I could see he was hanging. I lifted up his arms. He wasn't breathing." Liam was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.



Liam was a sweet nine-month-old who had just learned to roll over and sit up with pillows.

Liam's mother Nicola wept after hearing about the recall "Nothing can bring Liam back, but if this saves one baby's life, it would mean so much to me," she said.

Even after Liam's death, Simplicity and the CPSC failed to tell parents across the country about fatal flaws with Simplicity cribs. That recall came more than 2 years later after at least two other babies had died. CPSC didn't even examine the crib involved until they were made aware of the Tribune's plan to publish an article on crib safety. The recall, clearly rushed to beat the Tribune's article, was announced well before the company had any plans in place to correct the problem. Simplicity president Ken Waldman recently said they had received 45,000 requests for the fix for the crib – less than 5% of those in use. And yet CPSC and Simplicity have stopped publicity and refuse to release information on the success of the recall so far.

A flyer detailing the cribs recalled is available from KID's website or the Illinois Attorney General's office.

TEST: Teach Early Safety Training

A team of senior engineering students at the University of Michigan looked at safety issues with a new product type, the bedside sleeper. In addition to addressing potential safety hazards through design modifications, the team suggested possible tests for a safety standard currently being developed through ASTM. The final project was displayed at a Design Expo at the Michigan Capitol building in Lansing in January. The full report is available on KID's website.

Simplicity isn't the only crib maker slow to react to consumer problems with their products. Andrew Hartung tells of his daughter's injury in a Bassettbaby crib.

Abigail Hartung

On September 20, 2007, my wife and I awoke to hear a banging noise and our 13 month old baby, Abigail, screaming. My wife looked into the video monitor and believed the crib looked broken. I ran in the room and to my disbelief the crib rails had separated at one top corner, pinching her hand. If we had not noticed this in our monitor, Abigail might have been trapped. It could have been a disaster. I could see that the bolt was drilled in too close to the edge and broke out.



I called Bassettbaby, the crib's manufacturer, that day. I was told someone would call me back and informed that no one could help us for a few days. When I finally spoke with a Bassett vice president four days later, he stated that this was an isolated problem.

A month later, Bassett's lawyer contacted me and said there was going to be a recall by the CPSC. This situation lasted 48 days before the recall was released. Since my Abigail's horrific situation I have been on a one man crusade to do something about it. While the recall is a good first step, my heart dropped when I saw there were 85 prior complaints of loosening hardware, despite the company's assurances that mine was an isolated incident.

When I think of what could have happened to my daughter or another child, it forces me to continue to advocate for a stronger children's product safety system.

Just as Andrew Hartung's complaint led to a recall of a dangerous product, consider reporting any problems with children's products or toys to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. It may save another child from injury or death. Abigail and her family recently traveled to Washington, DC to deliver their safety message to Capitol Hill.

Advocacy Report

Seven states are actively considering the Children's Product Safety Act. It has passed initial committee votes and is waiting to be considered by the full Senate in Wisconsin and Washington State. It has been assigned to a committee in New York and Pennsylvania and is introduced in California, Missouri and Connecticut.

Call KID or visit our website for the most up to date information on this legislation in your state and what you can do to help.

Best Friend Award Night

On Friday, April 18, 2008, Kids In Danger will present our 2008 Best Friend Award to US Senator Dick Durbin.

Throughout his career he has been a champion for children and their safety. Now, with unprecedented attention to dangerous children's products, he is taking the lead in shaping a strong Congressional response.

KID's Best Friend Award

Night in 2008 will also mark our tenth anniversary. We are proud to commemorate our work to promote the development of safer children's products, advocate for children and educate the public about dangerous children's products which has laid the groundwork for real reform of the children's product safety system.



KID will present the award at our eighth annual Best Friend Award Night held this year at Hugo's at 1024 N Rush St. in Chicago from 6pm to 8:30pm. In addition to the award ceremony, the reception will include comments from our honoree and others and our 2008 Best Friend Auction and Raffle.

Event tickets are \$125 or become a Sponsor for \$1,000 (10 tickets). Join us for this annual event to honor Senator Durbin, commemorate ten years of KID's mission, and remember Danny Keysar and all victims of unsafe children's products. We also encourage you to mark this anniversary and salute our honoree by placing an ad in our 2008 Program Book.

There are many reasons to support Kids In Danger:

- as a tribute to Senator Dick Durbin, a champion for children's safety and this year's honoree;
- to honor or in memory of cherished family members;
- to celebrate the history of Kids In Danger, our mission and our future; or simply
- because you care about improving children's product safety.

To place an ad in our program book or to donate items for the raffle and auction, please use the adjacent form.

Visit the Best Friend Award page at www.KidsInDanger.org for tickets, information and Program Ad/Raffle/Sponsorship forms.

Program Book Ad Form

Thank you for your support of KID's Eighth Annual Best Friend Award Night! To include your message of congratulations to this year's Best Friend Award recipients or to place an advertisement in our fundraiser program book, please do the following:

1. Select your desired ad size:

Select Ad Size Donation Artwork Enclosed?

<input type="checkbox"/> Business Card	\$75	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 page (5.5" x 4.25")	\$150	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Full page (5.5" x 8.5")	\$300	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Attach a camera-ready copy of your text or business card or write your message below. Electronic files may be sent to Laura@KidsInDanger.org.

3. Fill in your contact information:

Name: _____

Company or Org.: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

4. Return this form, artwork and your payment to Kids In Danger, 116 W. Illinois Street, Suite 5E, Chicago, IL 60610 by March 25, 2008. Contact KID at 312-595-0649 if you have questions.

Thank you for your support!