

# ACTION NEWSLETTER



## A new day for children's product safety, with some bumps along the way...

Since President Bush signed the **Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA)** in August of last year, the **US Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC)** staff, along with consumer advocates, and some manufacturers and retailers, have all been working to implement this landmark legislation – some more effectively than others. CPSC has issued rulemakings, held hearings, provided a dedicated page on their website to CPSIA-related information and dealt with a deluge of questions and concerns from manufacturers and retailers. Apparently, some weren't aware that when the Congress said they wanted the lead out of children's products and wanted testing before children use the products, they meant all products, not just toys made in China by Mattel.

But the real surprise of the CPSIA is that no one, outside perhaps the makers of these products, really understood how invasive lead and other toxins are in products our children use every day.

From the spangles on a little girl's dance costume to buttons on infant dresses to lunch boxes and backpacks, lead shows up in all sorts of places parents would never expect. On the other hand, many versions of these same products are lead free, demonstrating that it is possible to avoid lead. While the implementation of the CPSIA might be painful for those who were using lead in their products, in the long run, all our children will be healthier.

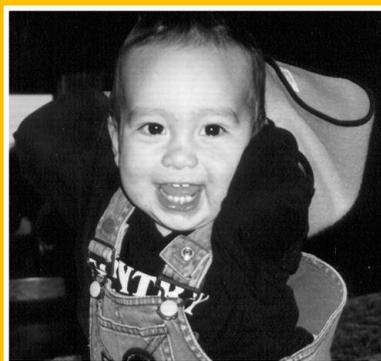
KID, along with other safety advocates, has been frustrated by aspects of the implementation of this crucial safety law. Many key parts of the bill – stronger standards for cribs, strollers, high chairs and other durable nursery products, product registration cards, requiring all toys to comply with the current ASTM voluntary toy

standard and more have been overshadowed by CPSC's lack of leadership on implementation issues. We recommend CPSC quickly act to exclude more types of products that have been shown to be lead free and allow component testing on some scale for lead and phthalates and begin to develop the database mandated by the law.

In addition to monitoring the implementation of the CPSIA, KID's outreach and education efforts continue – you can read more about our new **Debby Sayah Grandparent Outreach Program** and more inside.

In April, KID released **Toxic Toys and Faulty Cribs: An examination of children's product recalls in 2008, recall effectiveness at CPSC and the implications for child safety**. The report found that 190 children's products were recalled in 2008, including a record number of crib recalls (12), more toys tainted with lead, and reports of up to 1140 incidents and more than 90 injuries before products were pulled from shelves. In looking at recall effectiveness reports filed by some of these companies with CPSC, KID concluded that the current recall system is not working – not only are products not accounted for and removed from homes, but CPSC's tracking methods don't appear to be working. The full report is available at our website.

Join us on **May 8th** for the  
**2009 Best Friend Award Night**



**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 Ginzler 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.

## News You May Have Missed...

CPSC staff is holding a roundtable on cribs and other sleep environments for babies on April 22, 2009. Visit [cpsc.gov](http://cpsc.gov) for more information and to sign up to attend. This is part of CPSC's work on developing a new mandatory crib standard as required by the CPSIA and made urgent by the number of crib recalls and failures in recent years.

**Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood** has promised a comprehensive review of child passenger restraint system testing following a **Chicago Tribune** investigation on tests conducted by NHTSA which showed some car seats may not adequately protect a child in a crash. While a properly installed car seat is the safest place for your child in a car, the report shows that more stringent testing might provide even more protection.

Most major manufacturers of baby bottles have agreed to stop using **Bisphenol A (BPA)**. This chemical has been linked to a variety of health problems and believed to be especially dangerous for infants. Major retailers such as **Toys"R"Us** and **Walmart** had already called on their suppliers to stop using the chemical and various states (including Illinois) are considering a ban.

Visit KID's website at [www.KidsInDanger.org](http://www.KidsInDanger.org) for more information. Our blog, at [www.KidsInDanger.blogspot.com](http://www.KidsInDanger.blogspot.com), has more frequent updates, or you can find us on **Facebook**, **LinkedIn** and **Twitter!**

## TEST: Teach Early Safety Training

Students at the University of Michigan joined together in **Project Safe Crib** to look at design ideas to eliminate some of the hazards that have led to millions of cribs being pulled from the market due to defects, injuries and deaths.

The team developed a prototype that can only be assembled one way and with virtually no hardware, even though it still has a dropside. The dropside can store under the mattress creating a daybed or changing table mode.

The project is part of KID's **Teach Early Safety Testing (TEST)** program to integrate design safety into undergraduate engineering programs. This is the sixth year KID has worked with a team from UM.

For more information about this program, visit

[www.kidsindanger.org/programs/test/index.asp](http://www.kidsindanger.org/programs/test/index.asp).



## The Debby Sayah Grandparent Outreach Program

Is there an old crib in Grandma's attic, perhaps to be pulled out for visits from new grandchildren? If you're reading this newsletter, you probably have an inkling of the potential hazards this product could pose to children. Besides not conforming to current safety standards, the ravages of time and previous use put it at high risk for hardware failures, not to mention the possibility that it has been recalled.

Whether fulltime foster parents, occasional babysitters, or gift givers; grandparents face special hurdles when it comes to protecting kids from dangerous products. KID is launching a new educational initiative, **The Debby Sayah Grandparent Outreach Campaign**, to assist this vital population in obtaining product safety and recall information. This project will help grandparents protect grandchildren by providing specific tools and information on how to identify and remove dangerous items.

**The Debby Sayah Project** is named in honor of KID board member Judy Sage's mother who died last year. Judy's son and Debby's grandson, Andy, suffocated on a sleep positioner in 2001. Sleep positioners are marketed to parents worried about SIDS to encourage side or back sleeping, but they are unnecessary products and pose a very dangerous suffocation hazard.

The program seeks to develop safety resources in consultation with leaders in the field that are specifically tailored to the needs of grandparents and that will reach a wide net of consumers through publications, organizations, service providers and government programs that work with grandparents.

Email [Sarah@KidsInDanger.org](mailto:Sarah@KidsInDanger.org) with any questions or ideas on how to reach grandparents with this lifesaving message.

# 2009 Program Book Ad Form



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

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**Thank you for your support of KID's Ninth 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	Art 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"/>
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3. Fill in your contact information:

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Return this form, artwork and your payment to Kids In Danger, 116 W. Illinois Street, Suite 5E, Chicago, IL 60654 by April 30, 2009. Contact KID at 312-595-0649 if you have questions. **Thank you for your support!**



## 2009 Best Friend Award Night

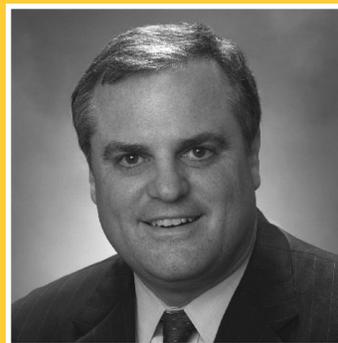
On **Friday, May 8th, 2009**, Kids In Danger will present the **2009 Best Friend Award** to **US Senator Mark Pryor** (AR) and **Congressman Bobby Rush** (IL) for their work in shaping a strong congressional response to unsafe products and their leadership in sponsoring the **Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA)**.

Join Kids In Danger to honor Senator Pryor and Congressman Rush and to commemorate the tremendous victory we've achieved through the passage of CPSIA and the legacy of Danny Keysar and all victims of unsafe children's products.

KID will present the award at our ninth annual Best Friend Award Night held this year at **Hugo's Frog Bar & Fish House** at 1024 N. Rush Street in Chicago from 6pm to 8:30pm (valet parking available, accessible entrance through Gibsons).

The honorees will be presented the award at a reception featuring cocktails, a buffet, exciting raffle prizes, and live and silent auctions.

**Tickets for this event are \$125, or become a Sponsor for \$1,000 (10 tickets) .**



Senator Mark Pryor



Congressman Bobby Rush

All funds raised through the **Best Friend Award Night** go towards KID's lifesaving programs, resources and services. You can help make the event a success by placing an ad in the 2009 commemorative program. There are many reasons to place an ad:

- To recognize the outstanding leadership of our honorees;
- To support and sustain KID's work;
- To honor or in memory of cherished family members;
- Because you care about children's safety.

To place an ad in our program book or to donate items for the raffle and auction, please use the form at the top of this page.

Visit the Best Friend Award Page at [www.KidsInDanger.org](http://www.KidsInDanger.org) for tickets, information and forms.



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2009 Best Friend  
Award Night KIDS IN DANGER



Friday May 8th, 2009



## Donor & Supporter Notes

Thank you to everyone who supported our year-end appeal sent with our 2008 Annual Report in November which raised almost \$50,000. Contributors included \$10,000 from Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar, \$8,250 from the Cowlin Foundation, \$7,500 from the Elias Foundation, \$5,000 from the Turano Foundation, \$2,000 from Katten & Temple, LLC, \$2,000 from France LeClerc and Richard Thaler and \$1,500 from William Meadow & Susan Goldin-Meadow.

KID also received \$50,000 from RC2 Corporation as a cy pres award from a class action lawsuit settled last year. Underwriters Laboratories Inc granted KID \$25,000 for our **TEST** program and other outreach programs and KID received a \$7,000 grant from Seabury Family Foundation for our **Safe from the Start** program.

Thanks too to our early sponsors for this year's Best Friend Award Night: Toys"R"Us, Linda Ginzel & Boaz Keysar, Corboy & Demetrio, Celsis, Barbara Passy, SF Investments, Marla Felcher & Max Bazerman, Caroline Shoenberger, Holly & Ron Burt and Steven & Leslie Swibel.

KID board member Judy Sage's mother, Debby Sayah, died this fall. KID received many memorial contributions from her friends and family. Read inside about the Debby Sayah Grandparents Outreach Program started with those funds. Tribute donations were also received in honor of Judy Sage, Karen Bertoli, Katherine Schipper, Leslie Batterson, Linda Ginzel & Boaz Keysar, Nancy Cowles, Sarah Schimmel, the Barr Family, Caeden Cannan, and JD Melchiorre; and in memory of Andy Sage, Brendan Maruyama, John Parker, Jori Gniadek, Lucy Goldstein, Raymond Glug, Sandra Passy and Danny Keysar.

Many thanks to those of you who pledged through your workplace giving program or provided KID with your employer's matching gift information.

Thanks for graphic design from Peggy Groves Design [www.peggygroves.com](http://www.peggygroves.com) & printing from JB Graphics, Inc. 773-539-7457.