

**"Every child in America will be safer now that this bill has become law."**

The words Congresswoman Schakowsky said at the signing of CPSIA have been proven true five years later.

## SAFETY LAW TURNS FIVE, KID REPORTS ON PROGRESS

In August, KID celebrated the fifth anniversary of landmark legislation, the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA). This bill is the most significant product safety reform since the creation of the Consumer Product Safety Commission in 1972. We had a birthday cake and celebrated with our champions, Congressman Bobby Rush and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky. Language from previous legislation Congresswoman Schakowsky had introduced was included in CPSIA, named for Danny Keysar. Danny's Law requires strong standards for infant and toddler products, product registration cards and that all cribs, such as those in child care facilities, must meet the new tough standards. The celebration was held at the Carole Robertson Center for Learning in Chicago – a perfect backdrop of giggling toddlers and babies napping in safe cribs. Allies in the effort for safer children's products joined KID: Illinois PIRG, Illinois Action for Children and the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

In the five years since CPSIA was passed, there have been five significant safety breakthroughs:

- The **SaferProducts.gov** database
- Third-party **premarket testing** for children's products;
- The **reduction of lead** in children's products through lower lead limits;
- **Strong mandatory standards for cribs** and other infant and toddler products; and
- A mandatory safety **standard for children's toys**.

One important safety breakthrough of the landmark legislation was the creation of a public database of consumer reports.



This allows consumers to report incidents with products and review reports others have filed. **SaferProducts.gov** went live in March 2011 and last month KID released **Two Year Check-up: SaferProducts.gov** with an analysis of the first two years of data relating to children. Reviewing incident reports, KID found that almost a fifth of all reports were for children's products. The largest group of children's product reports were for nursery products (45%), followed by toys (22%).

Other findings include:

- Eighty-two percent of the child **injuries reported were for children under six**, while 95% of the deaths reported were under the age of three.
- Some **manufacturers show up repeatedly** in the list of incident reports. These include the Bumbo infant seat with 32 reports and 24 injuries, trampolines, cribs, infant sleepers and more.
- There were 125 incidents reported in SaferProducts.gov involving a children's product where incidents or injuries occurred **prior to the recall** of the product. In some cases, the reports were instrumental in leading to the ultimate recall of an unsafe product. Many companies responded with a promise of an investigation and a few fast-tracked the recall process. This demonstrates that SaferProducts.gov encourages proactive product safety responses by manufacturers.

**Safety Law Turns Five... cont'd** →



**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.

## SAFETY LAW... *(continued from front page)*

The database continues to grow in usefulness as there are more reports to review for emerging hazards, ineffective recalls or other public health information. Based on the information and analysis, KID recommends the following:

- The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) should continue to integrate other information from their site into the database. **Links to recall reports** are especially important.
- Continued **work to publicize SaferProducts.gov** to consumers and businesses is needed to increase its effectiveness.
- In addition, when CPSC follows up on reports and takes action, or finds that the manufacturer's response is inaccurate, **additional notes should be added** to the report.

SaferProducts.gov is one of the safety breakthroughs that came about due to the passage of the landmark Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act in 2008. The efforts of these advocates, the hard work of Congressman Rush and Schakowsky in working to get an overwhelmingly bipartisan bill has paid off in lives saved, dangerous products removed from sale and an assurance that children's products today are as safe as they have ever been.



*Pictured left to right:  
KID Executive Director Nancy Cowles and  
Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky*

The full report can be found here:

[http://www.kidsindanger.org/docs/research/SaferProducts\\_Report.pdf](http://www.kidsindanger.org/docs/research/SaferProducts_Report.pdf)

## SPOTLIGHT

### VOLUNTEERING WITH KID



Ana Lopez Barcena has traveled a long way to work with KID. Originally from Madrid, Spain, Ana joined the KID team in January 2013 as a marketing volunteer to fulfill her commitment to her continuing education school in Chicago. Though she fulfilled the requirements for

her school in May 2013, Ana stayed with KID and we couldn't be more thankful.

Throughout her time here, Ana has been an invaluable addition to the organization. She has tutored Program Associate Laura Nikolovska in Spanish language, and she collaborated with other Spanish language volunteers to translate KID's safety workshop and educational materials. As a result, all of KID's materials are now available in Spanish language both online and in print.

In addition, she has traveled with Laura to attend events all over the city and suburbs that serve Latino communities. She assisted in developing and translating a Spanish language webpage at KidsInDanger.org. Further, she has developed a marketing plan that will **help KID grow** and **increase our impact** going forward.

KID has some pretty amazing volunteers, but Ana has truly given so much of her time, talent, and energy to KID. Gracias, Ana! Perhaps you have time and skill to give KID? We couldn't do our work without our volunteers. Contact Laura at the KID office to learn more about why your skills are exactly what we need!

## PROGRAM NOTES **KID targets professional caregivers to spread safety message**

One key component of KID's mission is to educate the public, especially parents and caregivers, about dangerous children's products. Over the past few months, KID focused on reaching the caregiver population because so many children are in their care each day and because parents often turn to caregivers as a trusted resource for information concerning their children.

As a result of our efforts, 150 professional caregivers have recently participated in KID's safety workshop, **Creating safe environments for children**. KID has traveled all over the area to host these workshops, including Glendale Heights, Waukegan, Bolingbrook, and the city of Chicago. At each presentation, participants receive a safety packet full of information on how to create a safe sleep environment for baby, buy new and used children's products safely, and information on how to stay connected with KID in the future.

In response to the workshop presentation, providers have made commitments to check their facilities for recalls, sign up for KID's monthly email alert, and share the information they learned with others. Going forward, KID will continue to target the caregiver population in order to spread awareness and continue to fulfill our mission. If you are aware of a caregiver community that could benefit from KID safety workshops, please contact KID.

***"As a result of the presentation,  
I am going to complete a  
product inventory of my facility to  
check for unsafe products"***

# 2013 BEST FRIEND AWARD NIGHT:

MAY 23, 2013

Supporters, friends, and family gathered at Fulton's on the River this past May to commemorate KID's 15th year and celebrate Shawn Kasserman, recipient of the 2013 Best Friend Award. A major proponent for children's product safety and partner at Tomasik Kotin Kasserman, Shawn was presented with the award by KID's co-founders, Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar. Following the tragic death of their son, Danny Keysar, Shawn served counsel for Linda and Boaz in the lawsuit against the manufacturer and licensor of the portable crib that killed their son. Shawn's commitment to the cause did not stop with the case and he continues to be an effective voice in support of child product safety throughout all of his endeavors at work and as a board member of Kids In Danger.

Attendees enjoyed delicious samplings from Chicago's finest chefs while perusing the live and silent auction prizes. Many thanks to those who generously donated the amazing prizes. We are also grateful to our sponsors including **Tomasik Kotin Kasserman Law Offices, Toys"R"Us, Inc. and the Toys"R"Us Children's Fund, Exelon, GATX, Turano Baking Company** and the **Philip H. Corboy Foundation**. Visit our 2013 [event website](#) for the full list of sponsors.

Further thanks go out to the chefs who put together delightful dishes – Chef Luca Corazzina of 312 Chicago, Chef Tony Hu of Lao Sze Chuan, Chef Jess DeGuzman of Sunda, Chef Samantha Kendall of Sam's Gourmet Lasagna, Chef Vicente Duran of Vivo, Chef Kevin Shulz of Fulton's on the River, and Chef Mike McDermott of Smoque BBQ. Their gourmet small plates helped to add a tasty touch to a special night.



## TEST PROGRAM UPDATED

This summer, thanks to tireless work by two college interns, the KID **Teach Early Safety Testing (TEST)** materials have been revamped. Through TEST, students can actively learn design safety principles while addressing real hazards in children's products. The TEST program can be used in its entirety or the resources can be used independently to augment design safety education. Materials include presentations, lesson plans, student project ideas and examples, and many other helpful resources. It is KID's hope this newly updated program will further benefit future engineers and ultimately reduce the number of defective children's products on the market. Interested in bringing TEST to your school or want to volunteer to help build the program? Contact KID at [email@kidsindanger.org](mailto:email@kidsindanger.org) or 312.595.0649.

*"It is important to look deeper into how a design will be used and all possible failures of a product. Negligence in this has been disastrous in the past and such mistakes should be learned from for the future."*

TEST participant at Northwestern University, Spring 2013

Northwestern University freshman have done TEST projects for several years and we continue to be surprised by their ability to apply design safety principles to a hazardous design and develop a prototype to improve safety. Want a closer look? Go to KID's YouTube page ([YouTube.com/KidsInDanger](http://YouTube.com/KidsInDanger)) to see video of this year's projects. All four teams worked to address sleep safety, two designing prototypes for a travel bed and two working to address crib injury patterns of limb entrapment and falls.



IMPROVING  
CHILDREN'S  
PRODUCT  
SAFETY

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### Support KID through Workplace Giving

It will soon be the season for workplace giving campaigns, including the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). This program gives federal employees the ability to donate a portion of their paycheck to nonprofit organizations, including KID. The money pledged to KID allows us to continue our lifesaving work. If you or someone you know works for an agency that participates in the program, consider a donation to KID. \$5 a paycheck helps us provide training for 100 caregivers. KID's CFC number is 42080.

Not a federal employee? You can still contribute to KID through your own workplace giving. Illinois state employees can use our SECA number 911-0865 and all others can use KID's tax ID number: 36-4234906. Questions? Email KID at [email@kidsindanger.org](mailto:email@kidsindanger.org). Workplace giving sustains KID throughout the year.



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## DONOR NOTES...

KID so appreciates all the donations that support our work, but love when we get tribute donations. Recently our supporters have marked Bat Mitzvah's (Naomi Hochman), births (Joaquin & Sebastian Amado-Garcia, Beatrice Ball Moyers, Peter Jacob Casasanto, Mary Claire Shaw, Giulia Guerrieri, Mikayla Stephens, Hannah Lea Hoffman, Victoria Rose), baby showers (Rebecca White, Mary Bradford, Emily Hughes Doyle), engagements (Karen Bundy & Tony), and generally wonderful people (Fran Hughes, Linda Ginzle, Shawn Kasserman, Hannah Costigan, Mr. & Mrs. Ghanara, Mark and Judy Sage and Mark McLawhorn for his assistance in installing car seats!). Consider a donation to KID to mark special moments and people in your life. We'll send a special card to the honoree.

KID also received donations in memory of Peter Huttenlocher, Franchee Harmon, Pepper Werner, Bernard Felcher, Dr. Gerald Glick, Newton, Danny Keysar, Juliette Grace Thiel and Betty Moore. We are so honored to continue our work in their memory.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Emeritus Professor Dick Moll of the University of Wisconsin-Madison had little trouble deciding to bequeath \$50,000 to KID after hearing Linda Ginzle give a speech 15 years ago at a product safety meeting in Orlando, Florida, and the passing of his wife 7 years ago.

Linda's brave speech, as well as her message about KID met Professor Moll's criteria about giving. "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give," from the author of The Prophet Kahlil Gibran.

As Professor Moll re-examined that quote he realized that giving of his possessions was the best way to honor the courage and strength of Linda's desire to help others as well as a way to use his resources in a way that was consistent with way the Molls tried to live their 52 years together.

Professor Moll is not a man who wants attention to recognize his desire to help those that KID does. Most of his gifts have been anonymous. His motivation for being public about his bequest is simple, "People that can afford to leave money to worthy organizations such as KID, create positive change. I've tried to make sure I'm on a path to correcting things in the world."

Please consider giving to KID while you are planning your estate. Professor Moll reminds us,

***"It is a way to give back, far into the future."***



On Long Island on October 20, supporters of KID will gather for the second **Project Safe Child Walkathon** in memory of children who died in unsafe products and to fund KID's continuing work. Then, on November 10, KID has a team of 26 runners in the inaugural **Edwards Hospital Naperville Marathon**. Consider supporting our walkers or runners at <http://www.firstgiving.com/KidsInDanger>.