

Hope and Courage
Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar
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Thank you, Amy. Boaz and I are honored by your kind words. It is your husband who served as our Congressman all those years ago. He was an early supporter of our cause to improve children's product safety, and we are forever grateful.

Sixteen years ago, my husband answered the phone call that all parents dread. "Your child has had an accident. He's at Children's Memorial Hospital."

We learned that our beautiful son, Danny, was strangled by a defective Playskool portable crib at his licensed childcare home in our Lincoln Park neighborhood. The paramedic tried to save him and when he couldn't, the ambulance took Danny to Children's.

Since May 12, 1998, the amazing force for good that is Children's Hospital --Now Lurie Children's Hospital --has been a constant source of hope and courage for our family. So it is particularly meaningful for us, as Danny's parents, to receive the inaugural Hope and Courage Community Advocate Award from you today.

This amazing hospital-- the community that we celebrate today-- took our broken family under its protective wing through your Heartlight program for bereaved families. The director of this program is here today, Kristen James. Thank you Kristen for bringing us hope and courage through your work at Lurie Children's Hospital.

At the same time that we were learning, through Heartlight, what it means to be a family with a dead kid, we were also learning about the dangers of everyday children's products --the products that we use to keep our children safe. We couldn't accept the status quo. And, so Boaz and I, together with Danny's 5-year-old brother, Ely, created the nonprofit organization that is Danny's legacy: Kids In Danger --affectionately referred to as KID. Our executive director is here today, Nancy Cowles. Nancy is the brave heart and soul of our cause, the woman who fearlessly takes on those giants who put profit ahead of our children's safety. Together with young volunteers and a small staff she is changing the world. Thank you Nancy for bringing us hope and courage through your work at KID.

We also have several members of our wonderful board of directors with us today. And here, again, we are grateful to Lurie Children's Hospital for giving KID two amazing board members - Dr. Bob Tanz and Dr. Karen Sheehan. Their life's work is not only to help your child when she is injured, but also to prevent injury from happening from the first place. This is exactly the work that KID is doing, and it could not be done without their dedication, heart and soul.

I have to close with a shout out to another amazing pediatrician, Doctor Elizabeth Powell, who is in the same saintly category as Drs. Tanz and Sheehan. A few years ago, KID

awarded doctor Powell with our highest honor –an award that we call our Best Friend Award. But, 16 years ago, she was one of the doctors in the emergency room who had to help the parents who got that dreaded phone call. Thank you Dr. Powell. We are forever grateful.

So, now, I think you can understand why we are so honored to be here today. Over these 16 years since Danny died, we have met many people –advocating for children, fighting every day. Many of you are in this room. Thank you; You have all given us hope and courage.