

25 YEARS WITH KID

Dear KID Champions,

This summer marked the 25th anniversary of KID's founding. Many of you were with us in May when we commemorated this milestone with our annual event, the **KID Best Friends Night** – *honoring all of you for your support through the years.*

It is also the 15th anniversary of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, a major overhaul of the Consumer Product Safety Act adopted back in the 70's. And as you'll read inside and in our upcoming Annual Report, we have worked with allies and supporters to strengthen protections by **passing additional laws regulating button and coin cell batteries to prevent deadly ingestions, clothing storage units to avoid tip-overs and bans on infant inclined sleep products and crib bumper pads.** Just as Danny Keysar's death fueled his parents to start KID and work for change, families such as Reese's, Alexander's, Charlie's, Meghan's, Teddy's, Shane's, and others pushed, sometimes for decades, for these strong new laws. You can read their children's stories in our Family Voices section on KID's website.

Through these anniversaries we have been able to highlight the tremendous gains we have made in children's product safety as well as see the road ahead – what's left to do to keep children safe. **We are seeing emerging hazards such as the tiny expanding polymer balls known as water beads.** Learn about Kipley's story and her mother's efforts to protect other children.

Read about all our progress and activity inside. All this work happens because of your support. Think about the children in your own life and **consider a donation in their honor to keep KID strong** – perhaps add \$25 to your amount to honor the 25 years since Danny died in a dangerous portable crib and his parents launched this effort to keep other children safe.

Sincerely,

Nancy A. Cowles

Nancy Cowles, Executive Director



KID is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by fighting for product safety. Our mission is to save lives by enhancing transparency and accountability through safer product development, better education and stronger advocacy for children.



25TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS

This year, the City of Chicago passed a resolution **congratulating KID on our 25th anniversary**, and U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky also passed an extension of remarks in Congress doing the same.

KID commemorated our 25th anniversary and the memory of Danny Keysar at our annual event, the **KID Best Friends Night** on May 23. Our annual fundraiser is traditionally the Best Friend Award Night, but this year we wanted to celebrate all our best friends who have supported us these 25 years. It was a great evening hearing about KID's accomplishments over the past 25 years from Nancy Cowles and former KID best friends Lisa Turano and Board President Shawn Kasserman. Guests also enjoyed a special [video message from KID founders Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar.](#)





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25 YEARS ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN



Danny's parents founded KID 25 years ago to push for strong safety regulations both at the state and national levels and to give parents and caregivers the information they need to keep children safe. Over the years, KID has advocated for several lifesaving bills, such as **Danny's Law** which was part of the landmark **Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act**

of 2008, and more recently the **Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth (STURDY) Act**, **Safe Sleep for Babies Act** which bans inclined sleep products and padded crib bumpers, and **Reese's Law** which protects children from button and coin cell battery ingestion. And KID remains on the forefront of emerging hazards that threaten children.

In August, KID Deputy Director Dev Gowda went to Washington, DC, to advocate on behalf of children for product safety. Dev was joined by coalition partners American Academy of Pediatrics, Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Reports, Public Citizen, and U.S. PIRG. The groups met with Congressional staff to discuss how to increase recall effectiveness, the dangers of certain products that are not safe for sleep, and how a better-funded CPSC could adequately combat hazardous products coming into the country.



KID has been working with parent-advocate Ashley Haugen, or "That Water Bead Lady," to ban water beads. **Water beads** are made of small super-absorbent polymer crystals that can grow up to 1,500 times their size when placed in liquid. If ingested, the beads absorb bodily fluids and can lead to **potentially life-threatening injuries, such as intestinal or bowel obstruction**. Ashley is a leading advocate speaking out against water beads after her own daughter, Kipley, was severely injured by these products. Her educational content on [TikTok](#) and [Instagram](#) has reached thousands of caregivers urging them to remove these products from their homes. Stay tuned for more updates on our progress to protect children from this emerging hazard.

GROWING UP WITH KID



Becky White works at the Booth School of Business's Gleacher Center where KID cofounder Linda Ginzel is a professor. Becky's youngest daughter had a close call with a magnet ingestion from a goodie bag item given to her older sister, Tamzin. Inspired by KID's work, Tamzin recently decided to do a project on the dangers of button battery ingestion for her school's science fair by showing and explaining how a button battery causes chemical burns on a

piece of bologna in just minutes. Tamzin remains passionate about protecting kids like her little sister from unsafe products. Through education such as Tamzin's and advocacy work through Reese's Law, we can limit the dangers of battery ingestion.

KID loves hearing from former interns.

Sisters Jocelyn and Jessica started as Linda & Boaz's babysitters and then became KID's first work study students from DePaul University back when Nancy Cowles first joined as KID's Executive Director.

KID caught up with them recently - and they have four kids between them and still support KID. Jessica shared this picture with us from their trip to the Shedd Aquarium this summer.



KID is grateful for the work our interns do to support our mission. This summer, KID hosted interns from University of Chicago, and we were thrilled to have interns back in person regularly again. They created social media posts, drafted blogs, analyzed research, and tabled at community events. Contact sahiti@kidsindanger.org if you're looking for an engaging and impactful internship or volunteer experience.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

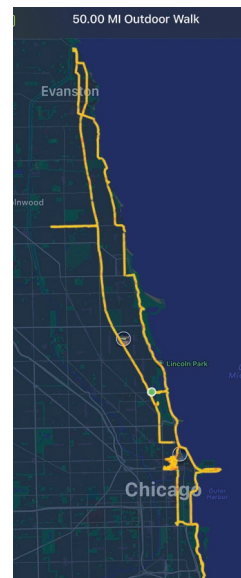
Since KID's founding, we've educated parents and caregivers face-to-face (and now also Zoom-to-Zoom) about how to create a safe environment for children at events such as our bumper pad exchange drive (bumper pads are now banned thanks to the passage of the Safe Sleep For Babies Act) and Safe from the Start workshops.

This summer, **KID provided safety materials and information** to a variety of organizations including the Rush Adolescent Family Center, the Greenwood School, and the Families First Network. KID Program Associate Sahiti Pidaparti held **Safe from the Start workshops** for Safe Kids Tulsa, an Early Intervention Specialists Group, and the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Connect Teen Chat Group. KID also attended the Brightpoint Community Resource Fair where we had a table to hand out materials.



ELY WALKS 50 MILES FOR KID

Ely Keysar was just five years old when his brother Danny died from a poorly designed and recalled portable crib. On September 18, **Ely walked 50 miles in Danny's honor to raise funds to support KID's life-saving mission.** His amazing trek took him all over the Chicago area including the Bahá'í House of Worship, Wrigley Field, and Lincoln Park Zoo. He was cheered on by friends, family, KID staff, and supporters all day. **Ely's efforts raised over \$20,000 for KID!** Thank you to those who donated \$1,000 or more to support Ely's Walk: Morse & Betty Johnson Family Foundation, Susan Goldin-Meadow, The Lineweaver Trust, the Keysar Family, and Daniel T. Gilbert & Marilyn Oliphant.





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Watch for Phase 2 of the KID
Design Safety Toolkit and a new report about
[SaferProducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov) later this year.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FUNDRAISER

KID's Young Professionals Board (YPB) held its annual summer fundraiser at Clover Sports & Leisure in Chicago. The lively bar atmosphere made for a fun evening. Alissa Griffin, a former KID intern, became KID's YPB President last year and continues her dedication to our life saving mission. Since her internship with KID, Alissa graduated from law school and her firm has advised KID pro bono as we create our Design Safety Toolkit.

KID's YPB consists of engaged young professionals who have demonstrated strong leadership qualities and are committed to KID's mission. Please contact Sahiti Pidaparti at sahiti@kidsindanger.org if you're interested in joining the YPB.



DONOR NOTES

KID's 2023 Best Friends Night raised over \$119,500.00. We want to thank those who supported KID with sponsorships. Other donations of \$1,000 and over for the 2023 Best Friends Night came from Lisa Turano,

Brendan M. Keefe, Maria & Rosina Turano, Kristine Mako, Charlene & Scott Bryeans, Dawn & Shawn Kasserman, Don Mays & Jonea Gurwitt, and John & Anne Landgraf. Thank you to everyone who generously supported our event!

KID received a grant from Clark-Halladay Memorial Foundation (\$4,000). KID also received grants from Amazon for translation of the KID Design Safety Toolkit and the Service Club of Chicago for new equipment and materials.

We thank Albert Lyons & Destiny Nicole Russell for donations in memory of their daughter Lorilei Lyons who died in 2017 from furniture tip-over. KID received other major gifts from Heather Mason & Perry Lentine and the Rustandy family.

We received matching gifts from Allstate, BP, Grainger, and Takeda. Matching gifts are a great way to increase the impact your gift to KID has on our lifesaving work.

KID received tribute donations in memory of Mahmoud Ahmad Almouhtaseb, Nestor Del Castillo, Mary (Puts) Costigan, Elaine Harris, Tanielle Miller, Newton N. Minnow, Nani, Angela Pitchford, and Geula Tishler.

We also received tribute donations in honor of Jade Avasarala-Kwong, Rami Bakkour, Danny's 26th birthday & KID's 25th Anniversary, Shylee Gaviella, Riker Gean, Linda Ginzel & Boaz Keysar, Robin Gonzales & Jeff Groulx, John Gustafson, Adam Ishaan Chaudry-Gal, Henrik Koch, and Beanie Meadow & Drew Weirman.

**Thank you to all our funders and donors.
You make our work possible.**