



Getting to Know Us...and Charlie

Charlie's Safe Haven is a new, non-profit organization in the Kansas City Metro area with the mission of decreasing the number of children hurt or killed by unintentional injuries in the home.

The organization is named in honor of Charlie Horn, a Kansas City toddler who died in November 2007 when a dresser in his home fell on him. Charlie's parents thought he was napping when instead he was playing quietly in his room. He leaned into an open, lower drawer and the short dresser tipped forward trapping little Charlie's body underneath. Charlie was two years old.

Charlie's parents did not know a dresser, just 30 inches tall, could ever pose a threat to their son's life. How could they? Would you?

Around the same time, Julie Fenwick, a local mother and former public relations executive, contacted Charlie's parents and asked if they would assist her with her vision to help other parents protect children from accidental injury and death in the home - children like Charlie. Charlie's parents tearfully agreed.

Charlie's Safe Haven will be a safety demonstration house where parents, grandparents and caregivers will learn how to address safety issues in the home. Fundraising efforts are currently underway to purchase a house and to provide educational outreach to members of the community.

We want to save lives, but we can't do it alone! We need your help.

Unintentional injuries claim more lives among children 1 to 14 years old than diseases, homicide, and suicide combined. (Johns Hopkins University)

Safe Hot Water Temperatures

Easy as 1,2,3

The HOT water temperature on a water heater should be set no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent scalds and burns. Here's how to make sure your home is safe:

Step 1. Check your hot water temperature. Run hot water from a faucet for 1 minute. Fill a cup with the hot water. Check the water temperature using a thermometer with the capability of measuring higher than 120 degrees.

Step 2. If the water temperature is higher than 120 degrees F, turn down the dial on the hot water heater. For electric hot water heaters call an electrician or your landlord.

Step 3. Wait 1 hour and repeat steps 1 & 2.

We're Official

Charlie's Safe Haven received its 501(c)(3) status in the Summer of 2008. In its first year, Charlie's Safe Haven raised more than \$65,000. A large part was thanks to a generous donation from Children's Mercy Family Health Partners, which recently announced a pledge to support Charlie's Safe Haven again in 2009. Multiple individuals and corporate donors also contributed significantly to Charlie's Safe Haven's first year of success (see donor list to the right.)

Safety Issues We'll Address

2009 will be an active and busy year to make Charlie's Safe Haven a reality. The goal is to have a safety demonstration house open to the public by the end of this year. It is a daunting task, but one the Board feels is necessary and is committed to achieving.

The demonstration house will include tips for parents and caregivers on a wide variety of issues, including:

- Bedroom and nursery safety
- Driveway safety
- Fall prevention
- Fire prevention and escape techniques
- Furniture safety product installation demonstrations, including safety straps and locks
- Gun safety
- Natural disaster preparation
- Playground safety and security
- Poisons and proper storage techniques
- Power line safety
- Safety related to seasonal events
- Toy safety
- Safety related to seasonal events

What Your Donation Buys

- \$25 buys marketing material for community educational outreach
- \$50 purchases five sets of furniture safety straps
- \$150 provides 500 new mothers with information about in-home safety issues
- \$250 provides a safety kit needed to safety-proof a family home, a hired handyman to install the products, and an in-home visit from experts to educate the family on hidden dangers
- \$1000 or more contributes to all of the above and helps directly fund the purchase of a safety demonstration house in Kansas City

DONORS

Corporate donors which have given \$500 or more

Charlie Horn Memorial Fund

Children's Mercy
Family Health Partners

Lansing Trade Group

Mullinax Photography

Nextaff

Pediatric Care Specialists

Torosian Foundation

Charlie's Safe Haven has an active and dedicated Board which meets regularly as a group and through individual committees each committed to distinct aspects of success. Board members are listed in this newsletter and can be contacted through the Charlie's Safe Haven website.

DONATE

Donations can be made online at www.charliessafehaven.org and in person through any of the Board Members.

In addition to accepting donations, our website provides valuable resources for parents, grandparents and caregivers about in-home safety. Please visit the site today to find a quick and easy way to donate, read more about our plan to keep Kansas City kids safe, and for information on the latest news involving child safety.

GET INVOLVED

In addition to your financial contribution, there will be opportunities to show support for the mission. Events will be held throughout the year, offering a variety of ways to interact with others and support Charlie's Safe Haven.

Boutique Crawl - April 25, 2009

Mark your calendar for the first ever Charlie's Safe Haven fundraiser - a Boutique Crawl on Saturday, April 25th from 10am to 3pm! Better than the collegiate pub crawl when you may have hopped from bar to bar, this crawl will take you from boutique to boutique for a good cause! Crawls are being planned for four regions of the city - North, South, East and Central - so you can be sure to find something near you or explore another area of the city!

Tickets will go on sale on March 1st. For more information, please contact a board member or go to www.charliessafehaven.org.

Future Events

Future events will include a summer Golf Tournament and a Family Day activity this fall. Please watch your mailbox, inbox, and our website for details.

Making a Difference

In response to Charlie's tragic death, Missouri State Senator Luann Ridgeway and State Representative Bryan Pratt led a successful initiative urging the U.S. Congress and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to enact regulations that strengthen incentives for the use of furniture safety standards.

The resolutions, which passed both the Missouri House and Senate, asked for mandatory regulations that would require warning labels on tip-over risks to be posted on all assembled and ready-to-assemble furniture and major appliances. The resolutions also encouraged all furniture and major appliances with a tip-over risk to come with anchoring devices that can be used to safely secure them to walls.

Senator Ridgeway and Representative Pratt led this initiative by sponsoring companion resolutions in the Missouri Senate & House of Representatives. Their hope is that this resolution will help prevent other families from encountering a tragedy similar to the one which took Charlie's life.

Both Jenny and Brett Horn struggled through emotional testimonies at the Missouri State Capitol in an effort to get this important legislation passed in their son's honor. Charlie's parents, local politicians, and friends and family of Charlie helped get legislation passed in the State of Missouri to encourage these new safety standards.

This resolution will serve as an important tool in asking the furniture industry, federal regulatory bodies, and the CPSC to make important changes regarding tip-over standards.

Looking for Furniture Straps?

Furniture straps are a simple, easy, and recommended way to secure dressers, book shelves, televisions and other tip-prone furniture that may be a hazard to children. In KC, straps are often available at Babies R Us, USA Baby, as well as online at Amazon. The Board is working to encourage other retailers to carry safety straps on a regular basis to ensure these straps are readily available. Don't see them? Talk to the store manager or tell us and we will contact the store. As Charlie's Dad often says, "You can fix a hole in the wall...you cannot fix a hole in your heart." Please secure your furniture. If you cannot afford to purchase safety straps or need help finding them please contact Charlie's Safe Haven.



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In the News

- In December 2008, a local mother pushed for the recall of a popular child's play yard because it collapsed on her son. In January 2009, a recall was issued.
 - Also in December 2008, a KC Metro girl nearly hanged herself when she jumped off the top bunk of her bed. The girl was treated and released from a local hospital, but there are things parents can look for in a bunk bed to ensure this does not happen again.
 - In October 2008, a 4-year-old girl died after accidentally shooting herself in a Kansas City home.
- These are just a few of the in-home safety issues Charlie's Safe Haven will address.

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