



News from Charlie's House - the home safety site

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- [upcoming events](#)
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DONATE NOW

Charlie's House provides safety information, materials, and furniture straps free of charge as a way of helping keep children in our community safe. If you would like to help us achieve our mission of preventing injuries to children in and around the house, please consider a financial donation to Charlie's House.

Crowley Furniture Supports Charlie's House

Charlie's House would like to thank Greg Crowley and Crowley Furniture for their recent partnership. Thanks to the support of Crowley Furniture, we will be able to purchase 3,500 furniture straps and 5,000 Home Safety Slides, which will be co-branded between Crowley Furniture and Charlie's House. In addition, Crowley Furniture will host a Home Safety Day, where safety items and educational materials will be distributed. The Safety Day will be announced at a later date. Thank you Crowley Furniture for your help in preventing injuries to children in and around the home.

Fire Safety in your Home

In 2012, there were more than 16,000 civilian fire injuries or one every 32 minutes. Home fires caused 83% of civilian fire deaths.

Working smoke detectors are the most effective defense against a fire-related tragedy in your home. A working smoke detector can reduce the chances of dying in a fire by nearly 50%. But the key is that they have to be working to be effective. Here are some key tips for using a smoke detector effectively:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside every sleeping area and in each bedroom.



Charlie's House was named in honor of Charlie Horn, a 2 year old boy, who was killed in 2007 when a small dresser in his bedroom fell on him. The mission of **Charlie's House** is to prevent injuries to children in and around the home.

SAVE THE DATE

**HOMERUN
FOR SAFETY**

5K, 10K & Kids' Run



**Charlie's House
Home Run for Safety
5K, 10K, & Kids Run**

September 28, 2014
Community America Ballpark
Kansas City, KS



 [Forward to a Friend](#)

Charlie's House
6324 N. Chatham Ave, #223
Kansas City, MO 64151

- Use Fall Back and Spring Forward daylight savings times as a reminder to change the batteries in your smoke alarms. Replace batteries twice per year, even if the alarms are hard-wired. Test your smoke detector each month.
- If your smoke alarm is more than 10 years old, replace it. Smoke alarms expire after 10 years.
- Sleep with bedroom doors closed. This will keep deadly heat and smoke out of bedrooms, giving you additional time to escape.

It is important to create and practice a fire escape plan for your family in the event that an alarm goes off. Use these tips for your escape plan:

- If there is an emergency, leave immediately! Wait to call 911 until after you are out of the home.
- Get a stopwatch and time how fast your family can escape. You may have as little as two minutes to escape.
- Designate one person to get infants and small children out safely. Have a back-up plan for young children just in case the primary person is overcome by smoke.
- Smoke is toxic. Teach children to "get low and go" if there is smoke when they are leaving the home. As little as one breath can be fatal.
- In a fire, time is critical. Don't waste time getting dressed, searching for pets or valuables. Just get out, and stay out!
- Practice feeling the door, doorknob and cracks with the back of your hand to see if they are too hot.
- Choose a place to meet outside that is a safe distance from your home. Consider asking a neighbor to become involved in your safety plan, and meet at their home.
- If you live in an apartment, pull the alarm when you're leaving. Know all the building's fire escape exits and use the stairs to get out. Do not use the elevator.
- If you become trapped inside, cover the area where smoke might come in. This would

include vents and cracks around the door. Call 911 as soon as possible and signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or flashlight. Stay at the window, and yell out until the fire department arrives.

Use these tips to exercise common sense around potential hazards:

- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, and always closely supervise kids and pets when the heater is on. Turn a space heater off when you leave the room
- Store gasoline in a locked location where children cannot access it. Keep only small quantities in an approved container with a child lock.
- Do not plug multiple appliance cords into the same electrical socket
- Never keep a hot oven or stovetop unattended.
- Keep all things that could catch fire in a kitchen away from your stovetop, including dish towels or wooden spoons.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen and make sure you know how to operate it. Know the P.A.S.S. acronym - Pull - Aim - Squeeze and Sweep
- Always use the back burners when children are around, and make sure the handles on pots and lids are do not overhang the counter where a child could reach it.
- Keep all candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and always blow them out when you leave the room or before you go to sleep.
- Keep matches, lighters and gasoline in a safe place and out of a children's reach. Avoid novelty lighters or lighters that look like toys.
- Teach kids to never play with matches, lighters or fireworks.
- Special Precautions need to be taken around fireplaces and other potentially hazardous devices.
- Install safety gates around fireplace, furnace

and ovens.

- Glass fireplace doors can become extremely hot, take a long time to cool down and should not act as a substitute for a sturdy screen. The glass on a fireplace can cause instant burn.
- Never use a fireplace when children are around. If you are using it, make sure you burn only seasoned hardwood such as oak, ash or maple

Sources:

* [Safekids](#)

* www.firesafetytips.com

* National Fire Protection Association, available at <http://www.nfpa.org>

Personalized Baby Blankets Now Available through Charlie's House



Looking for the perfect baby gift? How about a soft comfy baby blanket, embroidered and personalized with that special baby or toddler's name? We can create a gift package and include 2 furniture straps and a safety checklist to help parents and grandparents make their home safe from injury. The blankets are available in blue, green or orange for

only \$25.

Simply e-mail tailormadebytamela@outlook.com or call or text her at [913-669-6347](tel:913-669-6347). Tamela will personalize your blanket and a percentage of each purchase price will support funding of the demonstration house, community education, and outreach activities for Charlie's House. Please indicate your order is on behalf of Charlie's House.

Charlie's House Golf Classic



May 8, 2014

Shoal Creek Golf Club

Please join us for the first annual Charlie's House Golf Classic: Hole in One for Safety!

The scramble will begin with a shotgun start at 1:00 pm. Registration now open at

www.shoalcreekgolf.com/charlieshouse.

If your company would like to sponsor the golf classic, please contact John McCarthy at 913-375-7123.

Support Charlie's House by shopping at AmazonSmile

Do you ever shop on Amazon.com? Try AmazonSmile! AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know - same products, same prices, same service. However, whenever you shop on AmazonSmile, 0.5% of the price

of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases will be donated to Charlie's House!

Support Charlie's House by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Questions? [Learn more about AmazonSmile](#)

Behind the Scenes with Dancing With the Stars!

Preparations for Dancing with the Stars have commenced, and Dr. Tamara Peterson, who will be dancing to benefit Charlie's House, is cataloging the entire experience on [Facebook](#)! Visit the page frequently over the next few months to see how she is doing, and to catch a glimpse behind-the-scenes. Don't forget to "[Like](#)" the page to show Tamara your support!

Charlie's House Elects New Officers for the Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce the appointment of the following Officers to the Board of Directors:

Brendan McPherson, Board Chairman

Cindy Mense, Board Chairman Elect

Leslie Reardon, Secretary

Jean McPherson, Treasurer

For a full list of Board of Directors for Charlie's House, please see our [website](#).