



Safety Corner

JULY 2020

The Crowley Family

Doing the Right Thing



Crowley Family, Katie, Greg, Laura & Beth

When Greg Crowley, owner of Crowley Furniture, heard about Charlie's House 10 years ago, he knew joining the effort to promote safety in homes was the right thing to do.

Crowley has spent almost his entire life in the home furnishings business. His parents started Crowley Furniture more than 60 years ago in a small town north of Kansas City, Mo., and he's always had a role in the company. As he expanded Crowley Furniture to three locations across the Kansas City region, it's remained a family business - his wife

and two daughters are involved - with a commitment to caring for the people they serve.

"The tragic death of Charlie Horn happened in the Northland," said Crowley. "That's a part of Kansas City where we've always had a presence and been involved with the community. This is close to our heart. It's one of our neighbors who went through this. "I grew up seeing things done right and installed right. You don't want someone injured. Our culture is to do things right, so working with Charlie's House is a natural fit." Even with a lifetime of experience, Crowley gained a new level of awareness on home safety through the partnership with Charlie's House. It's given him a desire to help educate others and make sure all Crowley Furniture staff from sales to delivery are trained to talk about furniture safety with customers.

Anti-tip furniture strap kits are given away at all three Crowley Furniture locations along with information to raise awareness of potential hazards throughout the home. Crowley is quick to point out that this is important for each person, no matter who they are.

"The reality is that this is for everyone. I'm a grandfather and grandparents need to know about this as much as a young couple or anyone else.

"Everybody's home should be safe. Accidents can happen anywhere," Crowley said. Crowley is encouraged that awareness is growing across the furniture industry. He participated in a recent regulatory meeting and noticed manufacturers are more concerned with how to prevent tip overs and other related issues.

The Home Furnishings Association recognized Crowley for his voice for safety, dedication to charity work and longevity in the business with the Trailblazer Award. Crowley is grateful for the award and the opportunity to share a tour of the Charlie's House site with everyone who came to Kansas City for the award presentation in February 2020.

"The Trailblazer Award is a huge honor for me and Crowley Furniture. We've survived big box stores and have been a local company that's tried to serve people and do some good things," said Crowley.

"I'm excited to continue what we're doing with Charlie's House and let more people know about it. I think other communities will want to see it and then find a way to have a similar program. This could be something other communities eventually model."

Tip-Proofing Your Home



Every 43 minutes in the U.S., a child is injured by a furniture tip over, according to AnchorIt.gov.

These accidents can lead to hospitalization, brain injury and can even be deadly.

But just because they're scary, doesn't mean there aren't things you and your family can do to help protect your children. Here are a few easy things you can do to help keep your children safe from accidents.

Properly mount and secure TVs

TVs are commonly involved in tip over incidents, but they can also be easily secured. Mounting and securing a TV to a wall can be a good way to make sure it cannot be knocked over by a child. If you have your TV on a stand, you can also get straps to directly secure it to a wall to make it more difficult for a child to tip.

Manufacturers also put instructions for properly mounting their TVs. Following these is a good way to secure these devices in your home.

Fasten heavy furniture to the wall

Similar to TVs, the wall is your friend when it comes to heavy furniture, especially top heavy furniture. When it comes to taller pieces like bookcases and dressers, it can be easy for a climbing child to topple them over. Using straps to secure these furniture pieces to the wall can be a great way to keep them anchored and make them difficult for a child to knock over. You can find these straps [here on our website](#) for free.

Remove tempting items

A stubborn child is hard to stop. Our parents all found us up on the counter trying to steal cookies out of the jar at least once or twice. So, when possible, move tempting objects away from high places. If they don't have anything to get to, they will be less likely to try to climb objects.

These are just a few ideas for how you can help to safeguard your home. If you are looking for more ideas on how to prevent tip over accidents, feel free to visit our [website](#) and AnchorIt.gov for more advice.

**Safety
Demonstration
House Opening**



Nothing can stop us now!

In 2007 Charlie's House set a goal to build a safety simulation house. It would be a place for families to visit and learn how to reduce injury and accident risks in and around their homes; a community resource for partnering organizations to present safety workshops. Along the way, there have been successes and setbacks. In September, we look forward to achieving our goal and opening Charlie's House - Safety Demonstration House, located on Hospital Hill in Kansas City.

It is only the beginning of the many opportunities for this new educational resource. We are working with many of our community partners to integrate the Safety Demonstration House into their programs. Whether it is a program to help new parents, a workshop on fire safety, or a Safety Demonstration House tour, the objectives are the same - helping parents and caregivers reduce injuries and accidents to children in and around the home.

We will keep you posted as to our opening plans. With all the uncertainty derived from COVID19, we are staying flexible.

However, nothing can stop us now from opening the NATION's first Safety Demonstration House.

Stay safe,

J. Stuart Hoffman
Executive Director



Supporting Charlie's House

Imagine the Impact of YOUR gift

Now more than ever... With children, parents, and caregivers spending more time at home during the COVID19 crisis, there were more opportunities to identify risk issues in the home that could cause injuries or accidents to a child. In the first half of 2020, Charlie's House experienced overwhelming requests for injury and accident prevention educational materials and safety devices.

For every \$50 we receive in donations, Charlie's House can provide educational materials and safety devices to ten families. Imagine that your gift will help a family make their home safe from injury and accident risks... Imagine that your donation is saving a child's life. Donate to Charlie's House and help financially

challenged families make their home safe for their children.

Donate

Safety Corner is a bi-monthly resource published by Charlie's House, to increase awareness of safety issues, ways to prevent injuries and accidents to children in their homes and promote community events focused on home safety issues.

