PEDIATRIC WINDOW FALLS
Addressing the Issue in Oregon

Sandy Nipper, RN
Child Injury Prevention Coordinator
The Children’s Hospital at Legacy Emanuel
Portland, OR
History of the Problem: Local Window Falls

- **2000–2008:**
  Steady rise in residential window falls, injuries and law suits.

- **2008: Regional, State and Local Responses**
  - Harborview convenes Pediatric WF Prevention Community Forum
  - Safe Kids Oregon Public Policy and Education Committee considers a legislative initiative, seeks data
  - Education provided by SK PPE member, Attorney, Jeff Merrick
  - SK member hospital’s new Safety Store design: windows, window guards, window stops, alarms, cord windups,
Kids Can’t Fly.

Out in an instant.  Damaged for Life.

Two-story apartment in Roseburg, Oregon. Window safety is not just an urban, high rise concern.

Photos courtesy of Jeff Merrick, Trial Attorney
What is a “Safety Store”?

- Evidence-based public health injury prevention intervention
- Pioneered by John’s Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Concept replicated in over 22 US children’s hospitals
- Two SK Metro Portland member children’s hospitals
- One SK Metro Portland member fire station
- Eliminates top 3 barriers to effective home child safety practices

> EASY ACCESS
> AFFORDABILITY
> ONE ON ONE EDUCATION
Welcome to the Safety Store!
Safety products for windows, doors, cabinets, drawers, stoves and more...
History of the Problem: Local Window Falls

- **2009**: Sharp spike in residential window falls

  > 6 admissions to TCH in 3 weeks, Parker doesn’t survive
  > SK member hospital: Invites local media and Medical/Nursing staff want window safety education
  > SK member hospital family discharges include visit to store for education and product
  > SK Oregon data reveals 40-50 OR falls/year
  > SK PPE Committee continues to study issue
  > SK PPE member, Attorney R. Vangelisti introduces us to Parker’s family
  > SK member hosp Safety Store’s top seller: window safety products
Local Family’s Tragedy…

- Turns into a mission to prevent the same thing from happening to any one else’s child!
- [http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=6417442n&tag=mncol;lst;2](http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=6417442n&tag=mncol;lst;2)
Safety Store Response

Store educator demonstrates window safety products
History of the Problem: Local Window Falls

- **2010:** Residential window falls continue
  - SK member hospital volunteer, Parker’s mom agrees to local/national TV interviews
  - SK USA demos window safety devices on CBS Early Show
  - SK USA website home page links to this show
  - SK Oregon website links to show
  - SK Oregon, SK Portland Metro and SK member hospital plan a Harborview-style Community Forum
  - SK member hospital Safety Store’s top seller: window safety devices
Window Fall Prevention Safety Products

Guardian Angel - Window Guard

KidCo Mesh – Window Guard

John Sterling - Window Guard

KidCo - Window Stop
TO LEARN MORE….                    …PLEASE JOIN US!

2010 Community Forum:  
Understanding and Preventing Window Falls Among  
Children

Tuesday, November 9, 2010  
8:00 am – 1:00 pm

The Children’s Hospital at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center  
Lorenzen Auditorium, 301 N. Graham St.  
Portland, Oregon 97227

Registration Form:  www.safekidsoregon.org/conferences
Community Forum Goals/Audience

Forum Goals (Thank you, Harborview!)
- To describe the problem of child injury and death due to falls from windows.
- To consider the full range of countermeasures: education, engineering, enforcement.
- To identify local stakeholders and interested parties.
- To develop a local window safety coalition to take the next steps in prevention.

Target Community Partner Audience
- Public Health, Medicine, Nursing, Legal
- Injury Prevention and Emergency Responders
- Fire and Life Safety, Health Educators
- Property Management and Real Estate Inspectors
- Building Code Councils, Architects, Engineers
- Window/Screen Manufacturers, Safety Device Manufacturers
- Parents, Grandparents and Childcare Providers
- Media
Community Forum Agenda

- 8:00 - 8:30  Registration
- 8:30 - 8:45  Welcome & Introductions
- 8:45 - 9:15  **Human Factors Involved with Pediatric Window Falls**; Gary Sloan, PhD
- 9:15 - 9:30  **Family Stories**; Ashley Reck and Emily Blumenauer
- 9:30 - 9:45  **Oregon Data on Pediatric Window Falls**; Diane Winn, RN, MPH
- 9:45 - 10:15  **Chicago Overview: Lessons Learned**; Karen Sheehan, MD, MPH
- 10:15 - 10:30  Break
- 10:30 - 10:45  **History of Window Fall Efforts in Oregon**; Jeff Merrick and Richard Vangelisti
- 10:45 - 11:00  **Window Safety Product Overview**; Safety Product Demonstrations
- 11:00 - 11:30  **Codes and Enforcement Panel**; Teri Cline, Richard Rogers, Karen Sheehan, MD
- 11:30 - 12:00  **Education Efforts Panel**; Joanne Hatch, Adrienne Greene, MPA, Sandy Nipper
- 12:00 - 12:30  **Planning the Next Steps**; Facilitated Audience Discussion
- 12:30 - 1:00  Lunch; Networking Opportunities
Thank you!