

Special points of interest:

- National Center and Riley Hospital for Children Launch Campaign to Fund New Car Bed
- New Arrival
- Columbia Medical to Debut New Special Needs Car Seat
- Thank you, Laurie Potter



2010

Special Needs Update

National Center and Riley Hospital for Children Launch Campaign to Fund New Car Bed

The National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Healthcare Needs in partnership with Riley Hospital for Children has initiated efforts to raise funds to support the manufacture of a new car bed for children with special needs. The need for this type of car bed in the market place has long been established for children over 20 pounds who cannot tolerate travel in a car seat. In the past, this need was fulfilled by a car bed that has since been discontinued and the limited supply is now exhausted or expired. The National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Healthcare Needs collaborated with engineers to design a replacement for the discontinued car safety bed. A new manufacturer, The Hope Special Needs Products, LLC, agreed to begin manufacturing the car safety bed when capital is available. The National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Healthcare Needs initiated fund raising efforts because there is an urgency to have a car safety bed brought to market for children weighing 3.5 to 35 pounds. To date, more than 10,000 dollars has been donated to the fund. The fund raising goal is 75,000 dollars. For more information about the Hope Car Bed and information on how to donate funds go to www.firstgiving.com/automotivesafety.



New Arrival

Samantha Lin Novak was born October 30, 2009. Laura Novak, occupational therapist for the Kohl's Center, has returned to work part time. Congratulations and welcome back!



Many thanks to FedEx for donating the shipping costs of the training materials for "Safe Travel for All Children: Transporting Children with Special Healthcare Needs" at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Thanks, FedEx!

Columbia Medical to Debut New Special Needs Car Seat



Columbia Medical recently announced the addition of the Spirit Adjustable Positioning System (APS) Child Restraint to its line of products for children with special needs. The Spirit APS Child Restraint features adjustable positioning pads and pommel similar to those found on some wheelchair seating systems. The child restraint may be used forward facing only with a user weight range of 25-130 pounds and a user height range of less than 66 inches. According to the manufacturer's instructions, the Spirit APS Child Restraint is designed for installation using a lap-shoulder belt equipped with an Automatic Locking Retractor. When installed with a lap-shoulder belt and ALR using the method described in the manual, the seat does not require use of a top tether anchor. When installing the child restraint with a lap-only belt or lap-shoulder belt equipped with an Emergency Locking Retractor, the seat must be tethered to the vehicle's top tether anchor point. Two tether points are required for individuals weighing more than 80 pounds. The Spirit APS Child Restraint offers optional accessories to aid in positioning children with special needs such as a recline bar, extensor thrust wedge, swing away pommel, swing away side supports, and seat extender. This child restraint will be available for purchase in April 2010. To view child restraint features and instructions go to www.ColumbiaMedical.com.

Thank you, Laurie Potter

Laurie recognized a call to action and offered a generous financial donation for the design and testing of the new larger-sized car bed for children who cannot travel in a regular child passenger safety restraint system.

Dr. Marilyn Bull contacted Laurie to determine her motivation to help. Laurie stated, *"I have always been interested in the safety of children while traveling. In 2008, I completed the week-long CPST class. Almost immediately, I found myself in the special needs class as well. As an occupational therapy assistant in the public school system, and a former mom of a child who had disabilities, I have always been drawn to children who need modifications throughout their lives. In my volunteer work with families who have children with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), I am faced again and again with the scenarios of kids with Type I SMA who need to lie flat but are too small to meet the requirements of the modified vest. The new car bed will fill a huge void for so many of our younger kids with Type I SMA. It is imperative to me to get this much needed restraint into production, thus allowing many more children to be transported safely.*

In 2003, I started a non-profit organization after our first child, Marshall, died from SMA. Through our foundation (appropriately named "Marshall's Miles") we currently raise funds in support of families who have children with SMA. We reserve some of our funds to send toward research with the hope that a cure may be found. We also raise funds to be able to provide equipment for families when their health insurance has refused to cover it. We have purchased wheelchair lifts for vehicles, funded home repairs to improve wheelchair accessibility in homes, purchased battery units, suction units, medical supplies, positioning devices, and my favorite - car seats!"

Laurie is the mother of Murphy, her 5 year old daughter, and Anders, her 2 year old son. She works with students preschool age through grade 4 in a regional school district.

Anyone wanting to donate toward the design and testing of the larger-sized car bed can go to www.firstgiving.com/automotivesafety.