



## *Katie Elise Lambert Foundation*



### Remembering Charlie

Family hopes toddler's death will help parents spot hidden home dangers

By: Natalie Shelton. Thursday, November 8, 2007 2:38 PM CST

Halloween was a banner day for Jenny and Brett Horn's family.

Jenny Horn spent the day with 4-year-old Jack and his 2-year-old triplet siblings, Brigit, Charlie and Will, at Carolyn's Pumpkin Patch. Later that night, the family, who had moved in June to the Liberty area from Leawood, Kan., went trick-or-treating in their neighborhood, the Fairways subdivision, off Shoal Creek Parkway in the Liberty school district.

The four children were Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Lion and the Scarecrow from "The Wizard of Oz." It was the first year the triplets were old enough to get into the Halloween spirit, saying "trick or treat" and "thank you" to their neighbors.

But the next day, the Horns experienced the unthinkable, and now little Charlie, who reveled in his lion costume, won't be able to delight the family with his mighty roar again.

On Nov. 1, Charlie was upstairs sleeping in the bedroom he shared with Will. When his nanny went to check on them, having been just one flight down reading a book to one of the other children, she discovered a dresser had fallen on top of him, Brett Horn said.

Charlie was taken to Liberty Hospital but it was too late, he had died at home. Officials said they considered his death to be an accident. It's one the Horns wish no other family will have to face.

"When we were at Liberty Hospital, I called my brother-in-law and asked him to take the dresser out of our house because I didn't want to see it anymore," Brett Horn said.

"When I came home, I first thought he had taken the wrong dresser. It was a very small dresser, but it was just the angle that it came down on him."

**The Katie Elise Lambert Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 organization.**

**All donations made are tax deductible.**

**© copyright 2006 - 2008**

**[www.katieeliselambert.com](http://www.katieeliselambert.com)**

Like most parents, the Horns had secured tall pieces of furniture to the walls in their home because of the danger they pose and had taken numerous other safety precautions to protect their children. In their living room, Brett Horn placed his hand on the top of a massive glass-and-wood curio cabinet and shook it, showing how it wouldn't budge.

"Our purpose in this is to share who Charlie was and to help other families take a look at their own home environments," said Jenny Horn, a nurse who works in Cerner Corp.'s marketing department. "Please love your children, give them extra hugs and enjoy every moment you're given with them.

"You want to be able to just put your kids in a bubble and protect them from any type of harm, but you also have to give them independence and let them learn about their world."

Charlie's world was one filled with the companionship of his parents, two brothers and sister. He loved Elmo and Thomas the Tank Engine. Charlie, the first-born of the triplets, had a mild form of cerebral palsy and wore braces on his feet, but that didn't deter his energy, Jenny Horn said.

"He might be tagging a little behind our others, but he still kept up with them," she said. "He worked twice as hard at everything, but he was OK with that. He loved that."

The family has created a massive poster of pictures remembering Charlie, who already knew his colors and ABCs. He has a smile in every picture, "even when our other children don't," Brett Horn said.

As the family returned to their home from Liberty Hospital the night he died, they were welcomed by a beautiful sky shining with bright stars, Jenny Horn said.

"We picked the exact place in the sky where we thought he was," his mom said, "and we said good night to Charlie."

**Click to watch a video interview about Charlie with KSHB -TV 41.**

**"Share this message with all your friends and family. It could save another family the heartache of losing a child."**

**The Katie Elise Lambert Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 organization.**

**All donations made are tax deductible.**

**© copyright 2006 - 2008**

**[www.katieeliselambert.com](http://www.katieeliselambert.com)**