



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Safe Toddlers, Inc

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TO OUR DONORS AND FRIENDS

As you will see in our report that follows, it has been an exciting year that could not have happened without you. Our youngest donor was five years old! She donated the proceeds from her weekend lemonade stand, which raised over \$500 with matching dollars.

A husband-and-wife supporter funded our move into our new facility. In 2018, we were housed in Professor Marom Bikson's medical device engineering lab at the City College of New York. In 2020, we were moved out because of the pandemic. We stopped production for two months, but the orders continued to come. When everyone started to work from home, pediatric belt canes began to be built under five separate roofs.

The generosity, understanding and reliance of our board, staff and supporters knows no bounds. We rely on you because toddlers who are blind and mobility visually impaired are relying on all of us to get this right. To everyone who sent us gifts and goodwill this year.

We thank you!

Strategic Highlights

We have moved our operations. All Safe Toddles operations are now housed in one location. The benefit of being under one roof is we have improved wait times, a cane ordered before three PM, is shipped the same day. We have hired staff to assist in customer service, belt cane manufacturing and outreach.



The front door of Safe Toddles



Alberto and Benny sew a belt

2021 Fun Facts

- Size 6 was the most ordered frame size and size 6SS, our smallest size, was the most frequently requested frame/belt combination.
- Texas ordered the most pediatric belt canes of the 39 states (27 of 192 US orders).
- The Netherlands ordered the most pediatric belt canes of 12 countries outside US (4 of the 21 orders).
- January was our most popular month to order a pediatric belt cane (31 orders).

Financial Highlights

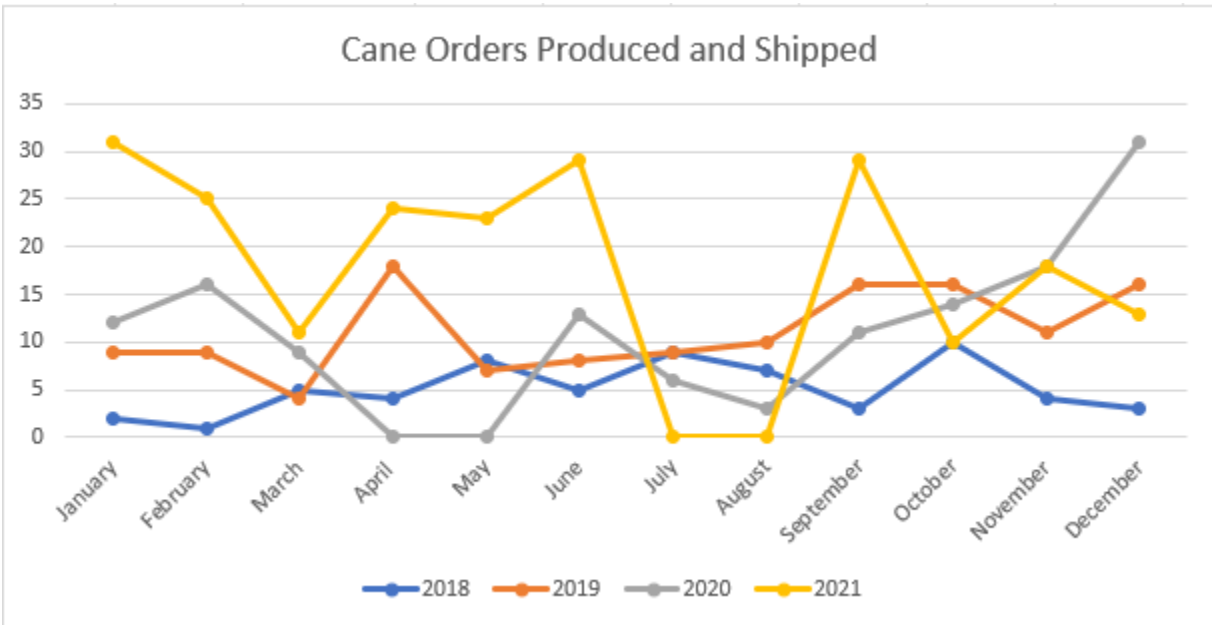
We were awarded two significant grants. The first, in partnership with Soterix Medical, Inc, funded an 8-month feasibility study of creating a smart belt capable of monitoring a child's actions while wearing the pediatric belt cane to recommend early intervention orientation and mobility lessons. The program manager, of the **United States Department Education Small Business Innovation Research Institute of Educational Sciences**, told us he thought the pediatric belt cane was the most socially significant project they had ever funded.

The second award was from the **Lavelle Fund for The Blind**. The Lavelle Fund support is for a nonbiased, two-year study of children who are blind and mobility visually impaired aged 15-to 60-months wearing pediatric belt canes being conducted by Northern Illinois University. Lavelle Fund support is life changing, as is the participants' commitment to providing their data. NIU's scientific analyses of participant outcomes will significantly benefit generations of children born blind and mobility visually impaired.



Julianna teaches Alberto and Benny routine 3D maintenance

We are now able to ship out our pediatric belt canes the same day they are ordered.



Operating Highlights

Although we were closed for two months to complete our move, Safe Toddles supplied 213 pediatric belt canes to learners in thirty-nine states and twelve countries outside of the United States.

We have streamlined our manufacturing process. For example, we now sew our belts instead of gluing them. This change saves production time and money.

We are also updating the logo on the belt to a colorful purple and white embroidered patch. This reduces the number of materials needed to produce the pediatric belt cane belt and looks great too.



One of several closets containing ready-to-ship stock.



Embroidered purple, black and white Safe Toddles belt logo

Our Staff

Engineer	Production	Customer Service	Podcast Producer
Julianna Zgaljardic	Benny Zaken	Kate Gerathy	Corina Ambrose
	Adalberto Villar	Bill Goodrich	
	Research Associate	La-Niyah Ortiz	

Our Board

Grace Ambrose-Zaken, President & CEO Roxann Mayros, Chair
 Marom Bikson, Secretary; Fred Timm, Treasurer; Yakir Katz, Constance Englestad,
 Gordan “Nick” Muller

Fast Forward: Early Intervention Orientation and Mobility with Pediatric Belt Canes

We built a multi-media curriculum for teaching toddlers and preschool learners who are blind and mobility visually impaired orientation and mobility.

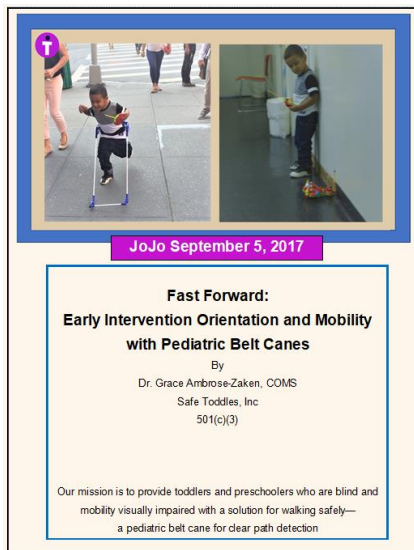


Table of Contents	
Preface	1
Introduction	7
Who is the pediatric belt cane for?	
How can I tell if a child is mobility visually impaired?	
Ambrose-Zaken's theory	11
Safe Mobility is Essential to Achieve Developmental Potential	
Pediatric Belt Cane	17
Video—How to measure and proper fit	
Assessment & Evaluation	22
Videos—MVI assessment	
Independent walking milestone chart	
Expected Physical activity chart	
Pediatric belt cane usage guidelines	
First time wearing the pediatric belt cane	30
Videos—How to introduce with no child resistance	
What to do when child resists wearing (tough twos)	
Cane skills	35
Videos	
Motor skills	60
Videos	
O&M Lessons	70
Videos	
Concept Development	95
Videos	
Play/Games wearing pediatric belt cane	115
Videos	

Title page and table of contents

Looking Ahead

Our 2022 goals are to continue to find ways to improve manufacturing methods, to reduce the cost and increase the number of pediatric belt canes that can be produced each day.

We are working with our partners to make popular the idea that safe mobility is necessary for toddlers who are blind and mobility visually impaired to achieve their developmental potential.

Our mission is to provide toddlers and preschoolers who are blind and mobility visually impaired with a solution for walking safely—a pediatric belt cane for clear path detection



Dr. Grace Ambrose-Zaken

President and CEO

December 21, 2021

<https://www.safetoddles.org/donate>



Gift Safe Mobility to Toddlers who are Blind

Help Safe Toddles give children who are blind the freedom of independent mobility. Toddlers who are blind surpass all expectations, especially when they wear their pediatric belt canes all day, every day.