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IPA Receives NASPA/MERCK Grant for *Katy's Kids* Program

DES MOINES (April 22, 2008) The Iowa Pharmacy Association (IPA) was a recipient of the 2008 National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA)/Merck state pharmacy association grants. IPA was one of five state associations awarded a \$7,500 grant.

Funds from this grant will be used to update IPA's existing *Katy's Kids* program. This program was designed to improve health literacy within local schools and communities by having pharmacists and student pharmacists teach kindergarten and first grade children about the basics of appropriate and responsible medication use. Each state association will receive an updated *Katy's Kids* kit that includes the presentation DVD and templates for reproducing program materials.

"Since its development in 1988, *Katy's Kids* has only been updated once. The program is a great resource for pharmacists, and the new updates will simplify its use with newer technology, including a DVD, to teach children about medications," said Kate Puetz, Vice President of Professional Affairs at IPA.

Katy's Kids has been a successful program in Iowa and across the country since 1988, and has been presented by pharmacists and student pharmacists in over 30 states to more than 50,000 children.

The Iowa Pharmacy Association is the state professional society of pharmacists, united for the purpose of advancing public health, particularly the pharmaceutical care of all Iowans.

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