

## **Nationally Recognized Speakers to visit Boys & Girls Club of Farmington Campus January 13**

This story is heart-breaking but is one you need to hear. With ever increasing demands on our personal and professional time in today's busy society, learning to juggle multiple tasks at once is something we all face daily. As a result, a new traffic safety epidemic has emerged on America's roadways that demands immediate attention: distracted driving.

### **A text or call is not worth your life, or anyone else's**

Jacy has a sad but important story to share with the world.

Hopefully her story stirs you to make a change. "I never want anyone to go through what I've been through." May 18, 2008

started as a celebration. Jacy graduated Magna Cum Laude from Muhlenberg College with hopes of becoming an Environmental and Human Rights Advocate. Driving home with her parents that afternoon her life changed forever. An 18 year old driver talking on a cell phone failed to stop at a red light, causing a tractor trailer to swerve and crash into the Good's family car. Both of Jacy's parents were killed instantly, and Jacy was given a 10% chance to live through the night.

In September of 2008 Jacy was released from the hospital and found out that there were no criminal charges from the crash because talking on a cell phone while driving is legal in the State of Pennsylvania. Research shows how dangerous it is to talk on your cell phone and drive. In February of 2009 during a press conference in Harrisburg Jacy shared her story to Pennsylvania legislators in hopes of passing a law to make cell phone use while driving illegal in Pennsylvania. At this time the battle continues, as only a portion of the bill has been passed.

Over the last three years Jacy and her fiancé Steve have been devoted to her physical and occupational therapy trying to make her body function normally again. She had to re-learn to walk, talk and feed herself. While Jacy was in the hospital they found that her story could affect change, so they now tell her story to everyone who is interested. Jacy appeared on the Oprah show in April 2010 to share her story. She was in People Magazine April 2011 as A Hero Among Us.

### **Facts on Distractive Driving.**

What is distractive driving? There are three ways you can be distracted: **Manual** – hands off the wheel. **Visual** - eyes off the road. **Cognitive** - mind off driving.

1. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that there were an estimated 3,092 deaths in distraction-affected crashes in 2010.
2. According to the National Safety Council, drivers using cell phones look but fail to see up to 50 percent of the information in their driving environment.
3. Distraction from cell phone use while driving (hand held or hands free) inhibits a driver's reaction as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of .08 percent. (University of Utah)
4. Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent-at 55 mph-of driving the length of an entire football field, blind.