



# A Heartbreaking Relief

By Megan Dixon

**O**N JANUARY 17, 2012 a close friend of mine made the decision to drink and drive. I have always heard of the consequences but I have never experienced any situation of this sort in my own life. It still makes me sick to my stomach to try and talk about the incident. Luckily, my friend learned from this and he has taken responsibility for the tickets he received due to the wreck. To this day, my friend speaks in front of crowds to tell them how this terrible accident affected his life and the lives of his family and friends.

At about 3:00am in the morning of January 17th my friend passed out in the drivers seat of his truck and crashed. He did not have his seat belt on and luckily he

did not have any passengers. He crashed in front of a friends house on the back roads of town. He hit the front end of his pick-up directly into a telephone pole and flipped forward, causing the entire cab to be crushed flat. Fortunately, the disuse of his seat belt allowed him to be ejected from the back of his pick-up into the ditch. His truck blew up in flames while he laid helplessly. The people living in the home nearby came running to help him. They made the 911 call and essentially saved my friends life.

When my friend arrived at the hospital the doctors said that he had broken nearly every bone in his face, as well as his right elbow. Of course, he suffered from many bruises but those do not compare to the

face that the doctors had to reconstruct. My friends mom had to bring in a picture of his face so that the plastic surgeon knew what to make him look like. His face is now completely made up of steel plates. Not to mention the steel plate and pins that remain in his elbow. Today, he cannot taste nor can he smell. His tear duct is damaged and he has a watery eye all day long.

Seeing the scars that remain on my friends jaw line reminds me every day how precious life is. I never understood the real life consequences of a drunk driver until the alcohol abuse occurred in a close friend's life. It is important that kids know what they are up against. Underage drinking is bad. When you add driving to the equation, it is ten times worse. It is important to realize you can endanger others as well. Fortunately, my friend only injured himself and no one else. If you find it necessary to drink and party then maybe you should think about the consequences. Do you want to be in the hospital for six days getting your face reconstructed? Do you want to lie in bed for nearly two weeks eating blended up food?

Drug and alcohol abuse is much more dangerous than people suspect; especially kids. I understand where the fun comes in. I know that drinking with your friends is fun. I have done it before. Although, before my friends accident, I never once thought of anything other than an M.I.P. I never thought about the fact that when I rode with my friend who had only had one drink it could kill me, them, or someone else. The amount does not matter. Drinking is not something we do at this age. That is why it is against the law. This country expects people who are of age to make a responsible decision. Our parents expect us to make responsible decisions. At this age, our choice should be not to drink. Trust me, you do not want to look at your friend in a hospital bed for six days in weeping pain and completely unrecognizable. A little bit of fun is never worth heartbreak like that. I thank god every day that my friend is still with us and he was so lucky. Not everybody is that lucky. 🚫



*Cody's truck before and after the accident. Cody in the emergency room.*

### ALERT SCHOLARSHIP

Megan Dixon is a high school senior from Oregon. *Alert Magazine* congratulates her for winning the Alert Scholarship and we encourage her in the pursuit of her academic goals. We would also like to encourage future seniors to participate in our scholarship program.